

THE TIMES

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MONDAY NOVEMBER 18 1996

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THE TIMES PLAY TO WIN

In our £50,000 Interactive Team Football game

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Prince on love, sex and liberty

PLUS:

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BABY CUISINE

Recipes for children from top chefs in The Directory

PLUS: THE MAGAZINE, WEEKEND, CAR 96, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS

Guns and ammunition exported in £3m deal

British company supplied arms to Hutu militia

FROM SAM KILEY IN GOMA

A BRITISH company supplied large amounts of arms and ammunition to the former Rwandan Government during and after its genocide of a million people in 1994. Documents found in a bus near the abandoned Hutu refugee camp in eastern Zaire show that a company trading as Mil-Tec Corporation sent the former Government rifles, ammunition, grenades and mortar bombs worth more than \$5.5 million (£3.3 million) between April and July 1994.

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VINOD P. DHIRI & Co.

CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS

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British rethink, page 13



Jemima Khan, who was taken to the Portland Hospital in London at the weekend

Jemima Khan gives birth to boy

JEMIMA KHAN, the wife of Imran Khan, the Pakistan cricketer turned politician, has given birth to a boy. The baby, weighing 7lb 14oz, was born at the Portland Hospital, London, just after 5.30 yesterday. Mrs Khan's father, Sir

James Goldsmith, the founder of the Referendum Party, arrived at the hospital shortly afterwards to see the new arrival. He was accompanied by Mrs Khan's brothers, Zaccaria and Benjamin. A hospital spokesman said

mother and baby were doing well. "It was a totally normal birth in every respect," he said. Lady Annabel Goldsmith, Mrs Khan's mother, said: "She is fine. I have a beautiful grandson. I am very, very happy."

11-year-olds do better at school

BY JOHN O'LEARY EDUCATION EDITOR

MINISTERS proclaimed a sharp rise in the test scores of 11-year-olds yesterday at the start of a week that will bring mixed signals about standards in England's schools.

The results of this summer's national curriculum tests at seven and 14 showed little change on last year. But there was a 20 per cent improvement among 11-year-olds, whose poor performance in 1995 triggered the publication of primary school league tables.

Only 44 per cent of pupils reached the expected level in mathematics by the end of primary schooling last year, compared with 54 per cent this summer. There was a decline in science, where tougher tests were introduced, but English also saw a rise, from 48 per cent to 58 per cent.

Cheryl Gillan, a junior Education Minister described the results as "encouraging".

More good news is expected on Wednesday, when the school league tables will confirm progress at GCSE and A level, but international comparisons to be published the same day will underline shortcomings in mathematics.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, said that even yesterday's test results represented a "serious indictment of the Government's record on education". More than 200,000 children were below the expected

Schools Week, pages 14 and 15

Labour U-turn shatters Tory truce on EMU

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR last night came under pressure from Tory Euro-sceptics to harden his position against a single currency after Labour's surprise decision to hold a referendum on economic monetary union.

The fragile Tory truce on Europe collapsed as leading sceptics urged the Prime Minister to outflank Labour by ruling out Britain joining the first wave of a single currency.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, announced yesterday that Labour would hold a referendum if a Labour Cabinet decided it was in Britain's best interests to join a single currency in 1999. He also made clear that once the decision had been made a Labour Cabinet would be bound by collective responsibility and would not be able to



campaign for a "no" vote. The disclosure, which represented a significant shift in the party's policy, was seen as a hard-won compromise, which would unite both the Euro-sceptics in the Labour party and those in favour of a single currency. Nevertheless the strategy is a high risk one. Labour could not afford to hold a referendum unless it was convinced the electorate would support euro.

Till now the party had left open the option of using the general election as a mandate for joining a single currency. But Mr Brown said that no informed decision could take place before the general election, due to uncertainties about economic convergence. The policy change now means that all three main parties will go into the next election with almost identical policies on monetary union.

John Redwood, the leader of the Backbench Right, said it was imperative to establish a clear difference between the Tories and Labour. "The Government should now take the next step. We need clear blue water and since Labour are coming over to our bank of the river and rowing hard, we need to pull away."

Mr Redwood, the failed Tory leadership contender, called on Mr Major to rule out EMU in the first wave and or widen the terms of the referendum that he has pledged.

John Townend, leader of the 92 group of rightwingers, Sir Michael

Peter Riddell, page 20
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Millennium costs doubt

Labour is refusing to give the Government a "blank cheque" to underwrite the millennium exhibition at Greenwich amid fears that its costs are spiralling towards £1 billion which could mean unspecified proceeds from the National Lottery being poured in.

Nurse catches Ebola virus

A Johannesburg nurse has contracted the deadly Ebola virus, causing a panic in the city. The disease has no known cure and in the six outbreaks to date 82 to 90 per cent of those infected have died quickly.

Spacecraft fails

The Russian space programme was dealt a devastating blow after the newly-launched Mars-96 spacecraft lost power and began plummeting to Earth, ending seven years of work and £38.5 million of funds.

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Blair accused of hypocrisy over tycoons' cash

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR was accused of "breath-taking hypocrisy" by the Conservatives last night for receiving considerable donations from business leaders to pay towards the expenses of his office.

A senior Tory backbencher insisted that he would raise the issue with Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, and demand that such funds were outlawed.

Mr Blair's aides confirmed that a Labour leader's office fund had been established in 1995, but emphasised that it had been set up as a "blind

trust" with the identities of the donors kept secret. They insisted that Sir Gordon had approved the arrangements already.

The fund, which now stands at about £500,000, is being used to help pay Mr Blair's staff and other private expenses. Although Mr Blair has declared in the Register of Members' Interests that he receives money from the fund, he has never declared how much, and the individual donations have not been registered.

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, said that Mr Blair had

claimed to be above board about the sources of funds into his party. He contrasted the latest disclosure with Labour's long-running campaign to demand that political parties name their donors. Labour has pledged to introduce a law requiring parties to publish the name of anyone donating more than £5,000.

The revelations of a highly secret fund to finance Mr Blair's private office expose the breath-taking hypocrisy at the heart of New Labour," said Dr Mawhinney. "Hundreds of thousands of pounds are pouring into a secret account for Mr Blair and his colleagues and this is only the tip of the iceberg." David Shaw,

a senior Tory backbencher, has said he will raise the issue with Sir Gordon to check if he was fully aware of how the fund operated. He will also call for this type of fund to be outlawed.

Mr Shaw, who was responsible for raising Mr Blair's Concorde trip to America last year, claimed that the Labour leader had breached the rules of his party and the House of Commons. He said: "I think it is a disgrace that he is getting round Labour's own imposed rules, that any donations over £5,000 should be declared."

"He is also breaking the rule of the House of Commons, at least in

spirit, that any individual who received more than half a per cent of his salary by donation should disclose the source."

Mr Blair's office shrugged off the criticism, saying there was nothing secret about the fund. They confirmed that the trustees were three Labour peers — Lord Merlyn-Rees, Baroness Jay, and Baroness Dean — and that the donors were known only to these three people.

The donors are said to include Sir Trevor Chinn, chairman of Britain's biggest motor dealers, and Sir Emmanuel Kaye, a multi-millionaire. A leadership source emphasised that the policy of identi-

fying donations of more than £5,000 applied to the party but not to the Labour leader. He argued that because the fund was blind, there was no question of influence in return for cash. He said: "None of who work in the office — and certainly not Tony — know who pays into the fund."

He also said that the arrangements were drawn up by two leading QCs, and had been approved by Sir Gordon Downey. Sir Gordon was said to have been asked if the arrangements should be altered, but he had apparently been happy that they should stand as they were.

Labour MP seeks privatised benefits

By DOMINIC KENNEDY
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING Labour MP has blamed the welfare state for encouraging poor behaviour by rewarding fecklessness, idleness and dishonesty.

Frank Field, chairman of the all-party Commons Social Security Committee, says the benefit culture is destructive of honesty, effort, savings and self-improvement.

He calls for the private sector to take control of social security, providing individual insurance policies for everyone and covering foreseeable needs like retirement as well as unplanned misfortunes such as unemployment. Only the poorest would have their contributions paid by the state. The rest of the population would be required to put savings into a personal fund.

Mr Field says the welfare system, created for a post-war world of low unemployment and high job security, contains built-in incentives towards bad behaviour.

As social security now accounts for a third of all Government spending, it must have a correspondingly large influence on the ground rules for society's behaviour.

"The nature of our character depends in part on the values which welfare fosters," he writes in *Stateholder Welfare*, published today.

He blames means-tested benefits, which disadvantage those who are honest about their earnings and savings. They create the poverty trap, which makes it uneconomic for many to leave welfare and accept a low-paid job.

"Means tests are of growing importance in today's welfare state and now command a dominant role in the lives of the very poorest. Means tests sanction inaction, non-saving and lying. These powerful messages, relayed through the system which gives basic income support to the poorest, play a part in cutting off the roots of mainstream Britain. By undermining the character of the poor, means tests also create a fertile ground for the 'yob culture'."

Means-tested welfare is the enemy within. Its rules actively undermine the whole fabric of our character. It does so by creating a culture where the public domain helping to erode the wider moral order of society."

Reform of the welfare state must be based on the understanding that "self-interest, not altruism, is mankind's main driving force."

Mr Field, MP for Birkenhead, does not see welfare benefits as a means of redistributing wealth, but believes that the age of large-scale redistribution has gone. "Politicians who argue otherwise are a public menace," he says.

Stateholder Welfare (IEA, 2 Lord North Street, London SW1 3LB, £9).

Cautious Labour delays tax plans until new year

By PETER RIDDELL AND JILL SHERMAN

GORDON BROWN disclosed yesterday that Labour's tax plans, including the critical issue of whether the party would raise the top rate of income tax, would not be announced until well into the new year.

Tony Blair had been suggesting that a decision on the top tax would be made known after the Budget on November 26 and before Christmas. But the Shadow Chancellor made clear yesterday that the details would not be published until next year.

Mr Brown did not rule out delaying an announcement until just before the general election manifesto is published, which is after the date of the poll is announced, although his aides said that

January or February was more likely.

Asked when he would unveil his tax plans, Mr Brown said on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*: "We'll look at what is said in the Budget, we'll look at the state of the economy as we come into the new year, and I'll make some announcement about what we're going to do before the manifesto. Everything that people need to know about what a Labour government is planning will be in our manifesto."

The aim of the delay is to maximise Labour's freedom to manoeuvre in the run-up to the general election. Party strategists believe that the Conservatives hope to use the Budget to try to trap Labour

into saying whether it would raise taxes or increase spending plans. Mr Brown wants to increase the distance between the Budget and an announcement of Labour's plans. His advisers pointed to the adage that it was often better to judge a Budget after a couple of months rather than a couple of days, and said that the new year period was the best time to consider the economic and fiscal prospects to see what tax and spending changes were required.

Also, the Labour leadership is not yet agreed on whether to raise the present top rate of income tax of 40 per cent to, say, 50 per cent on income of more than £100,000 a year. This would produce £1 billion in extra revenue.

Some of Mr Blair's leading advisers are opposed to any such proposal on the ground that it would reopen the argument about Labour being a tax-raising party that penalises success. The contrary view is that such an increase in the top rate would affect a small number of people and would symbolise Labour's commitment to fairness, while also allowing the party to say that tax rates for ordinary people would not rise. An alternative would be to limit the benefits of tax allowances for the very wealthy without raising rates.

Mr Brown is cautious about making a commitment that could provide ammunition for the Tories. Conservative Central Office is launching a campaign this week about Labour spending proposals, to counter the Opposition's offensive last week on Tory tax increases.

Reinforced by Alistair Darling, the Shadow Chief Secretary, Mr Brown has been firm with Shadow Cabinet colleagues in ruling out any promises that would increase public spending, except those financed by transfers from other programmes such as the phasing out of the assisted places scheme and savings on health service administration, or from the windfall levy on privatised utilities.

But Labour will be pressed to say whether it would at least match Tory plans for increasing spending on the National Health Service.

Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Euro pressure on Major

Continued from page 1
Spicer, a leading Euro-sceptic, Bill Cash and Sir George Gardiner also called for Mr Major to rule out Britain's entry to a single currency in the first wave.

"I would certainly like us to make it absolutely clear that we would not join the single currency in the lifetime of the next Government," Sir Michael said. "The electorate would like it as well."

Leading members of the 92 group have been putting pressure on Tory candidates to express their opposition to EMU in their personal elec-

tion campaign manifestos. They claim that about 200 MPs and candidates have pledged to do so.

Representatives in both Labour Euro-sceptic and pro-European camps were trying to put the best gloss on the referendum plan, which allows Tony Blair to delay any final decision about joining a single currency. Some argued that the timetable would be too tight to join EMU in 1999, thereby effectively ruling out Britain's membership in the next Parliament.

But others argued that Mr Brown, one of the most pro-

European members of the Shadow Cabinet had ensured that the option remained to enter a single currency at the earliest opportunity.

Mr Brown, appearing on *Breakfast with Frost*, played down the threat of a Labour government losing a poll. "My own view is that if the Cabinet recommended [joining a single currency], and the Government of the day persuaded Parliament, there's a very good chance of persuading the public as well."



Ian Fenton, a founder of the British Pistol Club, at the Bisley rally yesterday

Tories face backbench revolt on handgun ban

By JILL SHERMAN
AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE Government is facing a Tory rebellion on two fronts tonight with both the pro-gun lobby and those calling for a total ban on handguns set to defy a three-line whip on the Firearms Bill. At least four Tory backbenchers are expected to vote with Labour backing a total ban on handguns and others, who are sympathetic to the Dunblane campaign, may abstain.

But a larger number may decide not to support the Government's proposal for a ban of all handguns over 0.2 calibre on the grounds that Michael Howard has not offered adequate compensation. Last week 31 Tories, including several members of the executive of the 1922 backbench committee, voted against the second reading of the Bill, despite the Home Secretary's offer to double the compensation fund to £100 million.

Although tonight's vote may be close, the Government is unlikely to be defeated, as the other main parties are offering their MPs a free vote. Some Labour and Liberal Democrats would not personally back a total ban and the Ulster Unionists are said to be split. But most Labour MPs would be expected to abstain on the Government's plan if the amendment calling for a total handgun ban failed.

Yesterday David Mellor, one of the four Tories backing



Mellor: plans to vote against Government

a total ban, warned that if the Government won it would be seen as a Pyrrhic victory as it would not have public support.

"The difficulty the Government faces tomorrow is if they had a free vote they would lose," Mr Mellor said on BBC television.

"Because they're not having a free vote, more timid spirits than me will vote with the Government against their consciences so the Government will have a Pyrrhic victory tomorrow. They will win the vote but they will lose the argument," he said on *Breakfast with Frost*.

Mr Mellor, a former Cabinet minister, said he would vote against the Government for the first time in 17 years and criticised the Prime Min-

ister's decision to give a free vote on caning but not on the handgun ban.

Meanwhile, more than 2,500 gun enthusiasts held a rally at Bisley, headquarters of shooting, in Surrey yesterday, in last minute attempt to halt, or at least slow down, the legislation. But the speakers were preaching to the converted, who filled dozens of plastic buckets with coins and notes to fund the continuing fight to save their sport.

More than £250,000 has already been raised by members of clubs and associations around Britain to lobby against the proposed ban. They claim that up to £500,000 will be needed if the fight is to be continued, through the European courts if necessary.

Pat Johnson, a former policeman and secretary of the British Sports Shooting Council, told the cheering enthusiasts that ten associations involved in shooting had finally got together to lobby for the cause in the Houses of Parliament and in the media.

"We cannot get a clear counsel's opinion until the Act itself has been published," he said. "But it does appear that the Government may not have the right to deprive people of owning guns in the way they are proposing. Certainly, the British law and controls on the sport are much tighter and tougher than anywhere else in Europe already and any further move could well be regarded as illegal."

11-year-olds doing better

Continued from page 1
standard in English and mathematics.

The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, which is responsible for the tests, estimates that about 75 per cent of children should be capable of reaching the target for their age group. Mr Blunkett said that in English, 37 per cent of 11-year-olds had a reading age of nine or below, while 40 per cent were at least two years behind in mathematics. Mrs Gillan acknowledged that further strides were needed to meet the Government's examination targets. "With under two-thirds overall of our 11 and 14-year-olds achieving the expected level for their age, we must do better still if we are to match our international competitors."

However, David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said primary schools had now

answered their critics. "These results owe a great deal more to the sheer professionalism of teachers than to any spur which the Government thinks the threat of league tables will provide." About 80 per cent of seven-year-olds achieved the expected levels in English and mathematics. The proportion was lower in tests of 14-year-olds, but the 57 per cent success rate still represented an increase on last year.

Wednesday's school league tables will show further improvement in GCSE and A levels. In local authority schools, almost 40 per cent of 16-year-olds achieved five higher-grade GCSEs this year, compared with 38.7 per cent last year and 34.5 per cent in 1992. The full statistics will be boosted by results from grant-maintained and independent schools.

But a long-awaited study of 13-year-olds, also due out on Wednesday, will show that

while English children are doing better in science, they are slipping down the international league table in mathematics. The Third International Mathematics and Science Study will show particular failings in the basic elements of algebra and number work.

Schools Week, pages 14, 15

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Lorry job for Norris attacked

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE former Transport Minister Steven Norris was attacked by Labour yesterday for accepting a £150,000-a-year job as the head of a road haulage trade body four months after leaving office.

Mr Norris, 51, who is to stand down as the Conservative MP for Epping Forest at the next election, will take up the full-time post as director general of the Road Haulage Association after the election.

The appointment had been cleared by the Cabinet Office's Carlist Committee, which vets former ministers' private-sector jobs. Mr Norris has made no secret of his interest in a new business career when he leaves politics after the failure of his car dealership during the last recession.

Brian Wilson, a Labour frontbench spokesman, said: "If this is allowed under the existing rules, then there's something far wrong with those rules."

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THE TIMES

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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 18 1996

Parents of bully victim say school let them down

By Stephen Farrell

THE parents of a victim of bullying, who was awarded £30,000 against his former school, said yesterday that they felt betrayed by his teachers and the education authority.

Sebastian Sharp, 20, won the unprecedented damages from Shene School in Richmond, southwest London, claiming that it had failed to protect him against violence.

Mr Sharp, a clerk with stockbrokers James Capel, was left suicidal after being bullied between the ages of 12 and 15, at one point being tied with string and thrown through a glass door. At 13 he injured his leg when he ran into a glass door fleeing a gang.

Experts believe the case could lead to hundreds of similar actions even though the school, which settled the damages claim before it reached the High Court, did not admit liability.

Speaking to *The Times* last night at their home in North Sheen, near Richmond, Mr Sharp's parents, Janice, 39, and Graham, 43, said they feared their son would never

recover. In a statement released through them, Sebastian Sharp said: "I hope from this that other children will get justice and realise they are not alone. I only took this to court to make schools answerable."

His mother said: "He has not fully recovered even now. He said to me the other day that he felt great sorrow. We have never had any apology from the school for the bullying. His behaviour changed, and he became very, very quiet. We were absolute devastated when we found out about the bullying. We were so totally let down by the school."

Sebastian, the oldest of four brothers, went to Shene School at 11. The problems began in his second year, but his parents did not learn of them until he ran away from home on September 23, 1991, aged 15. His four-day disappearance prompted a nationwide search until he was found sleeping rough 20 miles from his home, shivering in his blue school uniform and still suit.

He told police he had been bullied. "When I saw him at

the police station, I said, 'Babe, why didn't you tell us?' The first thing we would have done was have you out of that school," Mrs Sharp said.

Scores of previous incidents suddenly made sense. He had come home one day with his trousers ripped at the knee, and told his parents he had fallen off his bike, but in fact, he had been thrown through a glass door, Mrs Sharp said. "The string marks on his arms from when he was tied up were, he said at the time, from falling on the cord around a seeded area of grass. He was very communicative and would talk to us about every other subject. But he just held back from talking about school. Although he became very quiet, we put it down to puberty."

Her husband said they were particularly angry about a school report two months before Sebastian disappeared, which gave no hint of the trauma he faced. The report said: "On occasions, he finds other members of the group demanding and stressful. He is prepared to talk about this, and he responds in a mature way to these difficulties. He is well-liked by the class, and is a positive member of the tutor group."

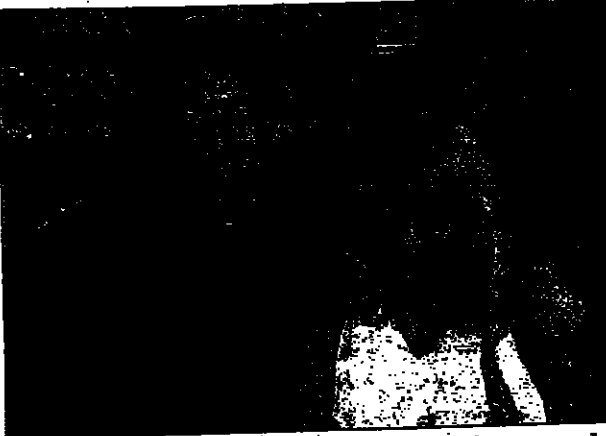
Mrs Sharp said the headmaster, Simon Williams, had reacted defensively when challenged immediately after Sebastian's disappearance. They also claim to have had no satisfaction from his deputy.

"While Sebastian was still missing, we heard rumours that he had been bullied. I went to see the deputy. I was a fearful, distressed mother, and he just leant back in his chair, and said, 'There is always an element of bullying in any school.' I asked if there was anything specific, and he just made a negative grunt."

The disappearance prompted the Sharps to contact anti-bullying groups for advice, and give their son private tuition, and move him to Chiswick School, in another borough. He performed badly in his GCSEs, and felt unable to retake them at college because of the continuing publicity in local newspapers.

Shene School denied failure to protect Sebastian Sharp: "We were fully prepared to contest the allegations vigorously, but the decision was taken by the borough's insurers to avoid a costly and time-consuming process," Richmond Borough Council said.

The right school, pages 14, 15



Graham and Janice Sharp and the report that angered them by saying their son was "responding to difficulties"

Sub: A letter written by Sebastian Sharp to his mother, Janice, on the day he disappeared. It is a handwritten note on lined paper, written in cursive. The text is mostly illegible due to the quality of the scan, but it appears to be a personal letter.

£100 lost in jungle is returned

A WALLET containing £100, lost in a South American rain forest, has been returned to its British owner, 18 months later. It was found by poverty-stricken Indians who handed in the full sum to a tour company.

Alister Duff, 68, who lost the wallet on holiday in Surinam, is to give the money to the finders. He said yesterday: "Apparently there was enough in there to keep a family alive for a whole year. It just goes to prove what I've always believed - the poorer the people, the more genuinely honest they are."

Mr Duff, a director of Carlisle Racecourse, added: "Even the bookies couldn't have predicted the odds against getting my wallet back."

Day-Lewis weds Miller's daughter

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

DAYS before unveiling his latest film, role in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, the actor Daniel Day-Lewis has married the playwright's daughter Rebecca.

The couple wed discreetly last week in Vermont, to the surprise of those friends and fans who had regarded the British actor as an incorrigible bachelor. There had been word of trysts between the couple but Day-Lewis's marriage to Miss Miller, 32, was quite unexpected.

As far as Hollywood's publicity machine will be concerned, it was a joyous pairing of love and promotional opportunity. This week *The Crucible* will have its premiere in Los Angeles, and it now seems likely that the

couple's first public appearance will be at the first-night showing.

Ever-private Day-Lewis, 37, is the son of the former poet laureate Cecil Day-Lewis and now the son-in-law of the American left's favourite writer. His lean, dark looks have made him a coveted front man for glossy magazines and have helped him to stardom in such films as *The Last of the Mohicans* and *The Age of Innocence*.

Until recently he was considered the beau of France's Isabelle Adjani, but the affair ended shortly before Adjani gave birth to his child. He has also been linked to the actresses Julia Roberts and Winona Ryder, who co-stars with him in *The Crucible*.

Ranching earl plans to recreate ancestral hall

By Alan Hamilton and John Shaw

AN ENGLISH aristocrat who has spent most of his life in Australia has applied for permission to rebuild his family's ancestral seat in Suffolk.

The Earl of Stradbroke, who runs a ranch in Victoria and prefers to be known as Keith, wants to reconstruct the 18th-century house that stood at Henham, near Beccles, until it was demolished in 1953 as a result of a family feud over inheritance. Lord Stradbroke, 50, whose family motto is *Je vive en espoir* - I live in hope - has submitted previous applications to Waveney Dis-

trict Council to build a modern structure reminiscent of the Sydney Opera House in the middle of his 3,600-acre estate, laid out as parkland by the landscape gardener Sir Humphrey Repton. They were rejected after opposition from local residents and official bodies including English Heritage.

Now Lord Stradbroke, who left England at the age of 18 to become an encyclopedia salesman in Australia, has changed his mind. He wants to recreate a period house - either the original Tudor mansion destroyed by fire in 1773, or its replacement built by the architect James

Wyatt in 1797. He said his family was anxious to see the park restored with an appropriate style of house and he has suggested a hall based on the Tudor or Wyatt designs.

"I think the Tudor house is full of romance. It would be fun to build and, I believe, suitable. The Wyatt hall would sit well in the park, and the Repton park was designed around it. History would be complete if it was rebuilt."

The district council is being recommended by its officials to approve outline planning permission for a new hall when it meets later this month.



Timothy Dalton, Roger Moore and Pierce Brosnan outside the Odeon, Leicester Square, before the memorial service to "Cubby" Broccoli

Bond stars gather to remember Broccoli

THE man who brought James Bond to the cinema screen, Albert "Cubby" Broccoli, was remembered yesterday in a moving tribute to his lifetime's work which spanned more than 40 films.

Three 007s led the testimonies, which included a personal message of sympathy from the Prince of Wales, who was both a fan and personal friend of the late film producer.

Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton and the current Bond, Pierce Brosnan, stood together to pay their respects at the Odeon cinema, Leicester Square, where the master spy made his 1962 screen debut. American-born



Lois Maxwell and Desmond Llewellyn, who played Miss Moneybags and Q

Broccoli died in June, aged 87. He had spent much time in Britain during the making of the Bond legend and his family decided a memorial event should be held here.

Absent from the service, however, was the first 007, Sean Connery, who is currently working abroad. George Lazenby, star of *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, was

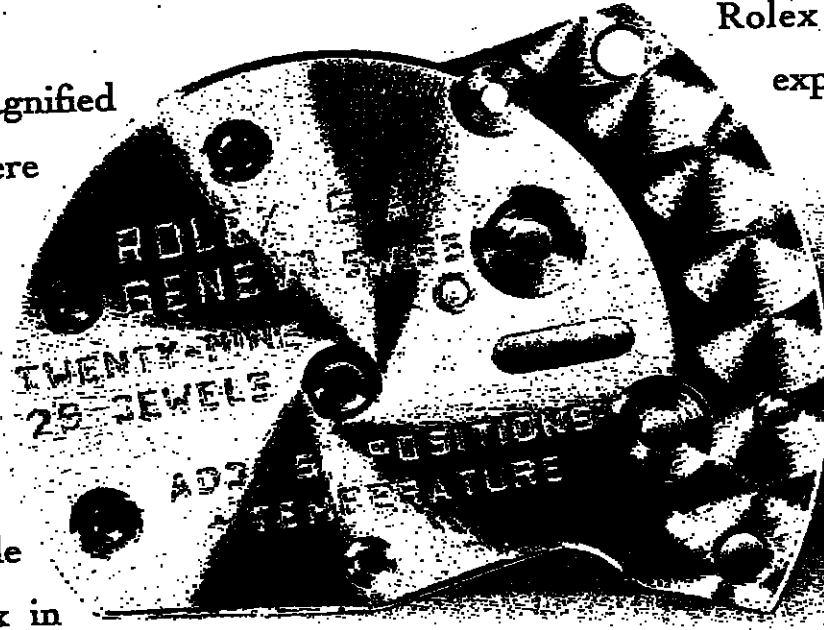
close friend of Broccoli, told the 500-strong gathering. "The familiar producer stereotype of Cubby's day scarcely radiated sweetness and light. As old campaigners in the trade will remember, many of Hollywood's leading film-makers were more like predators than producers."

"But to stars and studio hands as well as maitre d's and parking valets the world over, Cubby was the one glowing exception." Desmond Llewellyn, 82, who immortalised the gadget scientist Q, and Lois Maxwell, who played Miss Moneybags, also attended to pay their respects.

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Switzerland and that it contains 29 synthetic ruby bearings, the inscription carries one more vital message. It is contained in the cryptic phrase "adj 5 positions + temperature."

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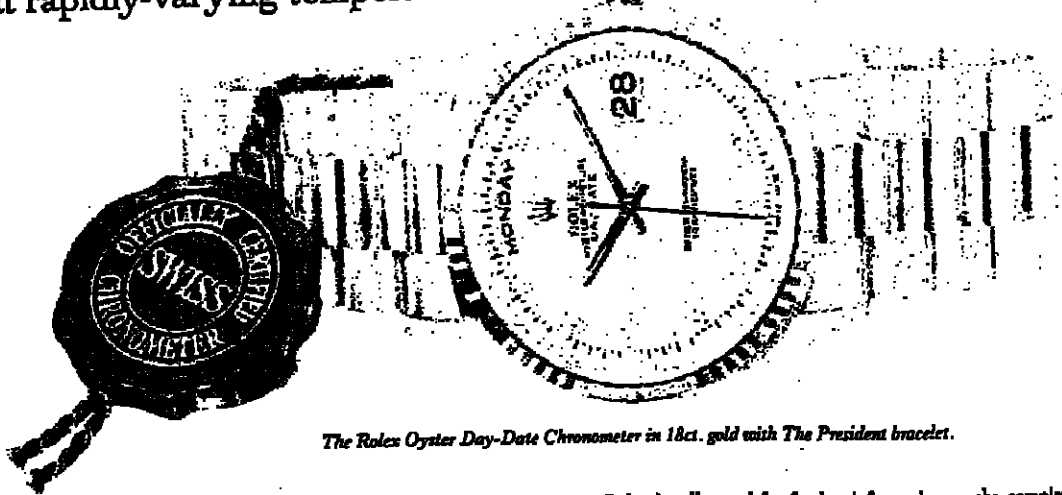
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Labour refuses to back millennium rescue plan

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Labour leadership is refusing to give the Government a "blank cheque" to underwrite the millennium exhibition at Greenwich amid fears that its costs are spiralling towards £1 billion.

Jack Cunningham, the Shadow National Heritage Secretary, told Virginia Bottomley that he would not give an open-ended commitment from Labour which could mean unspecified proceeds from the National Lottery being poured into the project well into the next century.

He is understood to have told Mrs Bottomley that Labour cannot go along with a plan to bail out the exhibition which could indefinitely commit hundreds of millions of pounds of "the people's money" without any control on the overall cost.

The Heritage Secretary made the unusual confidential approach to Dr Cunningham because of increasing doubts that private sector companies would match the cash from the lottery. Mrs Bottomley had asked Dr Cunningham to give Labour support to a parliamentary order that would indefinitely extend the life of



Jack Cunningham told Virginia Bottomley that he would not underwrite the Greenwich exhibition



the Millennium Commission, due to be wound up in 2000, so that lottery money could continue to be used to underwrite the cost of the exhibition. With Labour so far ahead in the opinion polls the intention is to convince the businesses involved in sponsoring the exhibition that a Labour government would honour the underwriting pledge. At present the project has a budget of £350 million, with £200 million coming from lottery funds and the remainder from individual and corporate sponsorship. But,

according to senior political sources, the costs of the exhibition are running out of control. A fresh estimate given by sources close to the commission is £700 million, excluding the £90 million that will go to English Partnerships, the regeneration agency, for re-claiming and servicing the site.

"It could be more; we could soon be in the £1 billion territory," one informed source said.

Labour has from the start been in favour of the exhibition idea. It supported the

selection of Greenwich and the decision of the Millennium Commission to allocate £200 million for it. But senior frontbenchers have complained that Mrs Bottomley, who chairs the commission, and Michael Heseltine, who is a member of it, have deliberately kept the Labour leadership at arm's length and have not sufficiently involved Greenwich council.

Privately they have accused ministers of mishandling the project and of falling out among themselves. Mr Heseltine is alleged to have taken over, leaving Mrs Bottomley on the sidelines.

As recently as three weeks ago Dr Cunningham was told by leading figures involved in organising the project that not a single cheque had been received from the private sector.

Dr Cunningham said: "Labour has always backed the idea of a millennium exhibition. But the project must have a proper budget and operate within financial terms which are realistic and fair to all those who want to see lottery money going to good causes. It would not be prudent of me to underwrite this project unconditionally in present circumstances."



A £46 million refurbishment is planned for the disused Baltic Flour Mill, downstream from the Tyne bridge

Tyneside to turn disused flour mill into its own 'South Bank' centre

By PAUL WILKINSON

A SOUTH BANK arts complex to rival that on the Thames is planned for the Tyne in Gateshead.

The £100 million project will centre on a £46 million refurbishment of the Baltic Flour Mill, a disused 1940s grain store that dominates the southern bank of the Tyne

opposite the vibrant Quayside quarter of Newcastle, itself created out of 1970s industrial dereliction. It will be converted into the largest contemporary visual arts gallery outside London.

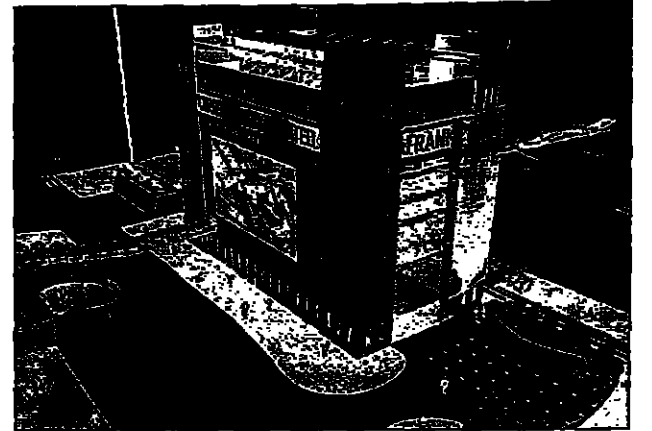
The two sides of the river will be linked by the Millennium Footbridge. An international competition has produced a shortlist of six designs, priced between £6 million and £12 million.

Completing the complex alongside the converted flour mill will be a regional music centre - a £35 million home for the Northern Sinfonia. It will feature two concert halls, a music library, and school and a base for local folk dance and music organisations.

Today's announcement of the project is timed to bring to a close the highly successful Year of the Visual Arts, which has been running throughout the North East and Cumbria. Cash for the arts complex is being sought from the lottery fund and the Millennium Commission is being asked to support the new bridge.

The project is a joint venture led by Gateshead council. Its partners include Newcastle council, the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation, the Tyne Port Authority and Northern Arts.

George Gill, leader of Gateshead council, said: "The complex will be a major boost for arts in the North. It will give the region facilities for



A computerised impression of the Gateshead flour mill after it has been converted into an arts centre

the visual arts and music of European scale and importance. The whole complex will be linked to the new developments in Newcastle, creating a mile-long river promenade in the heart of Tyneside."

He added: "The design for the Baltic gallery and the new bridge are quite simply sensational. I am sure when design work starts on the music centre, it will be equally impressive."

The Baltic mill will have four galleries covering 3,000 square metres of exhibition space, but no permanent collections. It will commission new works from the series of studios and workshops that will form part of the complex. It will also accommodate a cinema and lecture theatre. Glass lifts will climb the exterior of the slab-sided brick

building, taking visitors to a rooftop restaurant and viewing platform with panoramic views over the Tyne bridge. The vast sides of the building will also be used as screens for the projection of videos and other images.

The project's backers predict it will attract 345,000 visitors a year, generating around £5 million for the local economy. Its building will produce around 150 jobs and in operation it will create more than 350.

Mr Gill said: "We are proud of our public arts programme, which has taken art to the people for more than ten years. Now we have the chance to give the North an international gallery which will house the cutting edge of modern art. It will be a living gallery, where art is created."

Stonehenge groups say answer should be plain

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

AN £83 MILLION plan to clear away all modern structures within three miles of Stonehenge, leaving the stones as isolated as possible on Salisbury Plain, has won the backing of English Heritage and the National Trust.

They have chosen the Tussaud Group as a partner to run the site if they can win funding from the Millennium Fund. The existing visitor centre and other 20th-century clutter would be replaced by a new centre to be sited three miles away, which would include a restaurant and an exhibition set up by the

Tussaud Group to explain the story of Stonehenge. Visitors would walk to the monument along ancient tracks or take a small motorised train. The stones would not be fenced off and tourists would be able to walk around them.

If the scheme wins approval next summer, work would start in the middle of 1998 and be completed by June 2000. English Heritage would retain its responsibility for the safety of the stones and the 451 scheduled monuments in the surrounding landscape.

The one modern intrusion

on the ancient site that would not be removed would be the A303, which passes close to the south of the stones. English Heritage would like to see the road grassed over and the route diverted into a tunnel past Stonehenge, but this would cost at least £250 million, beyond the amount that is likely to be obtained from the fund.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, said that the bid for millennium money was crucial. "This is positively our last chance to save Stonehenge, this millennium or forever."

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Secret files accuse island officials of Nazi collaboration

FILES to be released this week are believed to contain allegations of collaboration in the setting up of the only Nazi slave labour camps on British territory.

Also thought to be among the last classified Ministry of Defence documents concerning the German occupation of the Channel Islands is fresh evidence of the appalling reception given in England to an heroic band of escapees.

The 50-year-old files, contained in 11 battered cardboard boxes, are mainly the product of M19, a wartime intelligence organisation that aided and abetted escaped prisoners of war. They will be made available to the press tomorrow at the Public Records Office at Kew and to the public on Wednesday.

The most sensitive papers will undoubtedly concern the occupation of Alderney, the smallest of the three main Channel Islands and the one nearest the French coast. As the Germans tore across France in the summer of 1940, Alderney was abandoned by all but a score of its 1,400 inhabitants, the fullest evacuation of any of the islands. In St Anne, the capital, people buried their valuables in their back gardens - a wise precaution as the town was promptly looted by French fishermen -

Some of Britain's most embarrassing war secrets are expected to be revealed tomorrow with the release of files on the Channel Islands. Colin Smith reports



shot their dogs and boarded a small fleet of merchant ships. About half of Guernsey's population went to England, and a fifth of Jersey's.

In 1942 Hitler, against the advice of generals who could see that the islands were of little tactical importance, decided to turn the entire archipelago into an impenetrable fortress. Thousands of labourers were sent to Alderney, some of them volunteers from Vichy France who were there for the money and were well treated. However, the

majority were slave labourers from Nazi-occupied territories. They included Spanish Republicans who had fled to France after Franco's victory in the Spanish Civil War; Russians and Ukrainians; North Africans; German political prisoners; and even two luckless Chinese seamen, one of whom was beaten to death by an SS man and is buried in Guernsey.

They worked on the German fortifications for 12 hours a day, seven days a week, on starvation rations. Those who became too weak to work were normally allowed to die of natural causes, although sometimes there were mass shootings. Nobody knows how many of the labourers died on Alderney, but recent estimates put the figure far higher than the official German figure of just under 400.

Occasionally, the brutality was witnessed by a party of Guernsey men who had volunteered to work on the island, which was administered from Guernsey. They had answered an advertisement asking for 30 men to work on the land in Alderney for 30 marks a week, the equivalent of about £5, which was good pay for an agricultural labourer. The advertisement had been inserted in the evening paper by the Controlling Committee, local worthies constantly trying to balance the welfare of their community with the need to keep the Germans happy.

Copies of some of M19 reports leaked three years ago indicated that some escapees from the islands told their interrogators that they thought local government officials were co-operating with the Germans far more than they need to. Certainly, there has long been a debate in the Channel Islands about where the line between passive co-operation and active collaboration should have



Herbert Richard, whose boat *Tim* was used in a daring escape from Guernsey to England, where the escapees hardly received the welcome they were expecting

been drawn during the five long years of occupation.

One of the men who went to Alderney with the Guernsey volunteers was Henry Corbet, who worked as a cook. "I don't think my grandfather was pro-German," his grandson John, who works for the Guernsey post office, said. "He just knew which side his bread was buttered." Mr Corbet was so haunted by his experiences on Alderney that after the war he would not return to the island. Harold Hockley is now the

only survivor of eight Guernsey men who made a daring escape in a 20ft open fishing boat called *Tim*. It was owned by Herbert Richard, who had already escaped from the Germans once before after he was captured in the First World War.

Mr Hockley, who as a merchant seaman later took part in the Normandy landings, was not quite 16 when he joined his father and two brothers aboard the boat, determined to rejoin his mother and some of his younger

Battered MP refuses to give up campaign

By Bill Frost

DOCTORS have advised Ian McCartney, who at 5ft 2in is Westminster's smallest male MP, to rest for a few days after a "ferocious" beating in a club left him with a broken nose and multiple bruising.

Mr McCartney, a Labour spokesman on employment who has been conducting a campaign against violent club bouncers, said last night: "The pain is less now but the anger will not subside. I am more determined than ever that action should be taken against those who use their strength to abuse others. This is just the latest incident in a long series of attempts to intimidate me."

Mr McCartney, 45, known affectionately by MPs as Big Mac, was having a drink at the Platt Bridge Labour Club in Greater Manchester on Saturday when a man approached his table. He said the man had hurled abuse at him before the beating. "My wife Ann had dropped me off. It's my local club where I have been a member for 17 years."

"I'd been doing a series of advice surgeries which went on longer than usual and I went for a quiet drink with a friend. The police came and took me to Wigan Infirmary, where I was told I had a broken nose. I think I may have suffered mild concussion after the first ferocious punch and the headbutting. Today there is just fury over what happened."

Mr McCartney is campaigning for regulation of the in-house security business, calling for a register of club bouncers. He said: "I am determined that their activities should be more closely monitored. There is evidence that while once the bad apples were involved in protection rackets and providing prostitutes, they have now moved into the sale and distribution of hard drugs in clubs and elsewhere."

Mrs McCartney said: "He really is in a bit of a mess - he had quite a going over. It is not just the broken nose, he was punched in the head too. The doctors have told him to rest."

Kieran Quinn, 30, was bailed last night to appear before magistrates next month charged with assault causing actual bodily harm.



McCartney: campaign against violent bouncers

Girlfriend sees gang beat bouncer to death

A BOUNCER was battered to death by four masked men while walking with his girlfriend early yesterday. Gary Chick, 40, was attacked in seafront gardens in Clacton, Essex, after leaving work.

The 6ft 3ins victim died at the scene after being struck repeatedly with a blunt instrument. The gang, whose faces were covered by balaclavas, stole nothing from him, and his girlfriend was not attacked. Mr Chick, who worked by day as a glazier, was a bouncer at the Torn Pepper's pub, which also houses a nightclub.

Simon Mallett, who manages Harrison's Amusements next door, said: "He was a nice guy and not a violent man, although he had to sort out bother nearly every weekend. They wouldn't have tackled him from the front and got away with it, that's for sure."



German officers outside a bank on the island of Alderney, where they set up slave labour camps

Society is shaken by debatable conduct

By Stephen Farrell

ARGUMENTS at one of Britain's oldest debating societies has led to punches and to police being called to its normally sedate meetings.

The arrest of a former president over allegations of theft and threats to destroy an historic minutes book has left Kingston Debating Society in southwest London with more serious issues to consider than the proposed subject that "This house would rather follow Alice through the looking-glass than down the rabbit hole".

The vast majority of the 110-year-old society's 27 members are lined up against Iain Burgess, the minutes secretary, who was recently expelled in a dispute over the return of a former member's £15 subscription.

Mr Burgess, 59, a former Hampton Court Palace maze-keeper and a department store Father Christmas, admits punching Richard Worthington, the treasurer, in the Ram pub at Kingston upon Thames after he was excluded from the society on September 12. The society also voted to ban Mr Burgess from meetings after 23 years as a member.

Police were called to Kingston Baptist Church Hall on October 24 when Mr Burgess arrived for a debate on whether it was right to vote for Bob Doyle in the US presidential election. Margaret Bird, 50, the joint honorary secretary, said he had stretched the patience of members accustomed to debating in a dignified manner.

Mr Burgess, of Hampton Wick, admitted the row was disproportionate to the disputed fee. However, he said that he had been treated unfairly. "I have been insulted from the floor, was not allowed to speak in my defence and the letter expelling me had already been prepared before the meeting."

"It was a kangaroo court. I do not give up easily. All our programmes say visitors are welcome: it will be interesting to see on what terms they keep me out."

THE TIMES LAW REPORTS

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Show honours gardener who discovered Eden

BY ALAN TOOGOOD
HORTICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

A DISPLAY opens tomorrow in tribute to the explorer who opened Britain's gardens to plants from around the world. The London exhibition is part of a campaign to revive public awareness of the rich horticultural legacy of the 18th-century botanist Sir Joseph Banks.

The National Geographic Society has set out to promote awareness of Banks's plant and wildlife discoveries, particularly on the 1769-71 expedition to the South Pacific, New Zealand and Australia aboard HM *Bark Endeavour* with Captain James Cook.

A replica of *Endeavour*, constructed as a floating museum, set off from Fremantle, Western Australia, in October and is expected to arrive in London on March 25 for a six-month tour of Britain.

The exhibition is at the Natural History Museum. Banks greatly influenced what is grown in British gardens today as hundreds of plants owe their introduction to him, either as plants that he collected himself or those brought



Sir Joseph Banks sailed with Captain James Cook

back by his collectors from across the world. He was honorary director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and expanded George III's collection there from 3,400 to 11,000 species of useful and ornamental plants.

The genus *Banksia*, the

Australian honeysuckle, commemorates Sir Joseph (1743-1820) and is represented in the Temperate House at Kew. He collected the first specimens during the *Endeavour* voyage. Banksias are in much demand as cut flowers and are grown in Hawaii, Israel and other

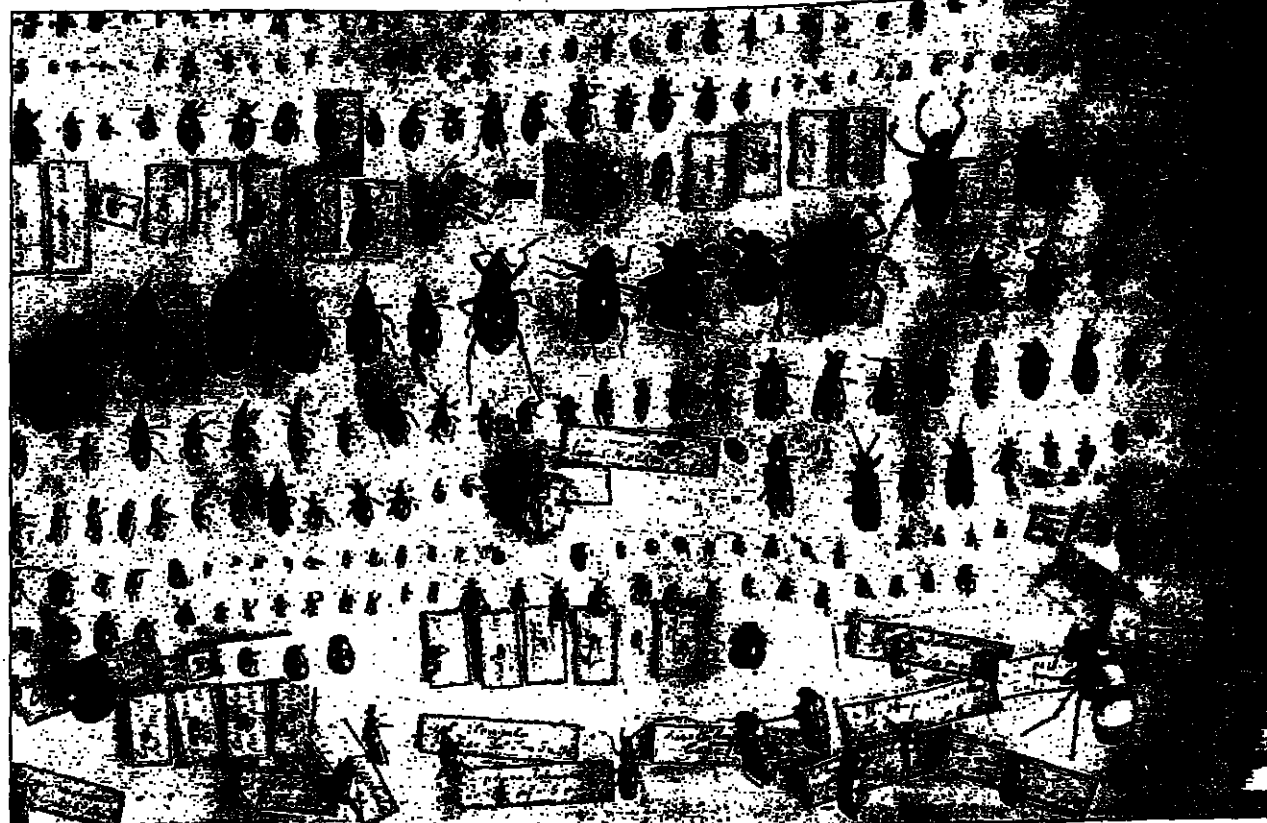
countries for the cut-flower trade.

Stewart Henchie, assistant curator of Temperate Department, said: "Important economic plants associated with Banks that we grow at Kew include tea and breadfruit." Banks was instrumental in transplanting breadfruit from Tahiti to the West Indies as a staple food and tea from China to India as a cash crop. The Kew breadfruit fruited last year, a rare occurrence.

London's Chelsea Physic Garden provided an early impetus in Banks's life and in return he donated seeds from around the world, plus an unusual gift of lava from Iceland. From this, Europe's earliest rock garden was built and is still there.

Sue Minter, curator of the Physic Garden, said: "We have been carrying out research on the rock garden as we want to restore it. We are trying to find out what plants were originally grown on it, but do not hold out much hope. Banks specified it was to be used for plants only from rocky places."

The Physic Garden contains many excellent plants that owe



Beede mania: Banks's curiosity ranged widely, as shown by his beetle collection at the Natural History Museum

their introduction to Banks. "A glorious plant here is the New Zealand kowhai, *Sophora microphylla*, thought to be a seedling from the original introduction of 1772," Ms Minter said. This small tree produces yellow pea flowers in

spring. Another highlight of spring is the lutea, the yellow *Rosa banksiae*, a variety of the Chinese Banksian rose.

It is hoped that the South African bird-of-paradise flower, *Strelitzia reginae*, will be in flower at the Physic Garden

during the exhibition. One of the most flamboyant of Banks's introductions, the blue and orange flowers like a bird's head are grown worldwide for the cut-flower trade. Banks was one of the founders in 1804 of the Horti-

cultural Society of London, later to become the Royal Horticultural Society. Jim Gardiner, curator of the RHS Garden at Wisley, Surrey, said: "The society's zest for collecting good garden plants obviously stems from Banks."

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Captain Cook and the *Endeavour*: 53 men perished

Marvels of Cook's hazardous tour

CAPTAIN James Cook's expedition to the South Pacific, accompanied by Sir Joseph Banks, was the 18th-century equivalent of a trip to the Moon.

Of the 94 men who sailed on the *Endeavour*, only 41 survived. Banks nearly froze to death during an excursion to Tierra del Fuego and the ship was almost wrecked on the Great Barrier Reef.

The expedition's first call was Tahiti, where the position of Venus was measured to calculate the distance of the Sun from the Earth, to help sailors to plot their position more accurately. In New Zealand, members of the expedition were the first Europeans to record Maoris.

Reaching Australia, they mapped the unknown east coast. The first landfall in Australia was Botany Bay, named after its profusion of

THE EXHIBITION

The Sir Joseph Banks Exhibition opens tomorrow at the Natural History Museum in London and runs until February 23. Photographs of plants, insects and animals discovered by Banks, taken by Cary Wolinsky, the National Geographic photographer, are accompanied by some of Banks's finds and extracts from the botanist's diaries.

plants and animals. The explorers were the first Europeans to discover kangaroos, Aborigines and koalas.

Banks found 1,400 unknown plant species and Cook laid the foundation for the colonisation of Australasia.

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Britain fights bias in trivial pursuit of Brussels jobs

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

BRITAIN is campaigning to change the selection process for jobs at the European Commission, because the Government believes it is biased against British graduates.

A "trivia quiz" that has been used to sift out the brightest candidates is said to favour continental applicants who have had a broader, multi-subject education. Even when Britons win a place in the final pool, they may still miss out because appointments depend on individual lobbying which is "not" part of the British culture.

Senior ministers believe there could be fewer controversial ideas emerging from Brussels if there were a stronger corps of British policy-makers there. A recent internal survey at the Commission found that the British contingent was at least 100 policy-makers short: the British target is for 15 per cent representation, but at present it is 11.44 per cent in key grades, compared with 16.03 per cent from France and Italy's 12.49 per cent.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, said last



Stewart David: has to brush up on French arts

night: "It is wholly important that the institutions of the Commission should contain a fair proportion of British staff. I strongly support initiatives like the European Fast Stream which are designed to increase the numbers of Britons working in the Commission, the Parliament and the council secretariats."

Commission recruitment is infrequent; the last main competition for jobs was in 1993.

With 57,000 applicants for 600 places on a pool to fill future vacancies, a general test is used to sift for the brightest candidates. The test questions have ranged from European institutions to general culture and current affairs.

In the past, the Cabinet Office has invested in a French language version of Trivial Pursuit to help British officials. High-fliers in the Civil Service who are part of the European Fast Stream are given training to help them through the test as well as the stringent academic and analytical side to the process. They are given language tuition and work experience in Brussels.

Even if they win a place in the pool, they may never get a job because of the reliance on lobbying for posts in policy units. One senior official said: "The French are brilliant at it. They don't mind in the least making cold calls to officials asking if they can work for them. They also have a fantastic network in the Commission to help them."

"But there is a shortage of British officials in the middle ranks of the Commission, so our network is not as strong. Anyway, it is against the culture of a British civil servant to knock on doors asking for a job or to butter up a particular official."

A new competition for posts at the Council of Ministers is to be announced shortly, and in the new year the Commission is hoping to advertise for new policy-makers. Duncan Farrer, a British official on secondment to the personnel unit at the Commission, hopes that the sifting test in future will be fairer to British candidates by concentrating on knowledge about the Commission, treaties, European institutions and international politics. The precise nature has yet to be agreed.

One hopeful is Julia Stewart-David, 25, a fast-track official based at the Ministry of Agriculture. She has already been selected to work at the British representation in Brussels from next March, to be involved in Britain's presidency of the EU starting in January 1998.

Despite this experience, she is worried about the Euro-trivia and general knowledge test. "I am going to apply for the competitions coming up but I will have to spend some time in the library looking at general knowledge books. I will have to know more about the major composers and artists and I have just been given a booklet with questions aimed at French teenagers about French culture, so I'll definitely have a look at that."

£1m offers long life to Brief Encounter station

By JONATHAN PEVYN

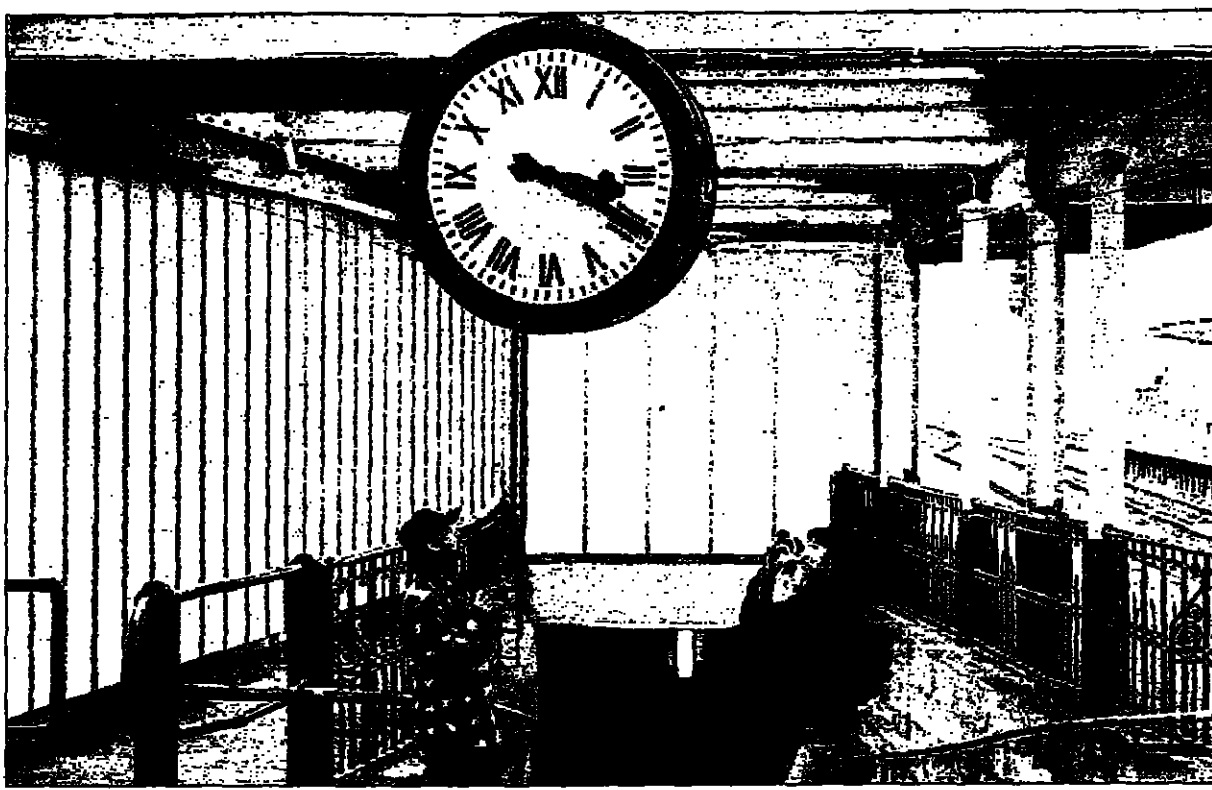
THE dilapidated railway station where Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson had their cinematic *Brief Encounter* is to be restored to its 1940s glory.

Railtrack, which owns the station at Carnforth, Lancashire, plans to create a museum, a small cinema and a theme restaurant in buildings used by David Lean for the black-and-white classic in 1945. The £1 million contract is due to be awarded by the end of next month.

The station, now forlorn and unmanned, formed the evocative backdrop to the story of doomed love in which thundering steam trains echoed the characters' turbulent but repressed emotions. Its poor state of repair has been criticised by Carnforth residents, historians, the local council and Victoria Wood, the comedian, who lives near by.

Steve Tyler, a spokesman for Railtrack, said the company had drawn up a shortlist of at least three consortiums for the redevelopment and was in the final stages of selecting the winner. "We are looking at some very exciting possibilities," he said.

Work is expected to begin early next year, with the



Times past: Japanese tourists photographing the clock at Carnforth station, used for the 1945 film, below

opening by next autumn. The proposals, which have the backing of the local council, include turning the former tearoom, where Alec and Laura met and later said their heartbreaking farewells, into a 1940s-style restaurant. One consortium bidding for the contract is seeking £370,000 National Lottery money to help to fund the project.

The couple in the film meet when Laura gets a piece of grit in her eye from a train as she waits on the platform and Alec, a doctor, goes to her aid. Both are married and, despite their love, observe the honourable standards of the time.

Carnforth was picked by



Lean to represent the fictional Millford Junction because it was then a bustling interchange for services throughout northwest England and was out of range of German

bombers. Few trains stop there now, but even in its rundown state the station attracts thousands of tourists a year, many from Japan, where *Brief Encounter* is

admired for its themes of emotional control and self-sacrifice.

It is hoped that the restored station will become one of Lancashire's prime tourist attractions, with visitors from all over the world coming to see the setting of one of Britain's most famous films. But it will face challenges for tourist custom from at least two other stations already exploiting a *Brief Encounter* connection. Wymondham station in Norfolk has a *Brief Encounter* tearoom, while Brockenhurst in Hampshire has a plaque commemorating a 1970s remake starring Sophia Loren and Richard Burton.

THE EUROPEAN QUIZ WITH A £36,500 PRIZE

THE Euro trivia test acts as a filter for European institutions where the salary of young graduates starts from £26,500. More experienced lawyers, economists and administrators get £41,300 to £51,600. Candidates answer 45 or 50 questions within 40 or 45 minutes. Tests have included questions on the arts, winners of the Tour de France and the inventor of the lift (Hyman Otis). This is a sample of more specific questions on politics and names:

1. What is the purpose of the Euratom safety inspection? a) The avoidance of diversion of nuclear material from its declared use; b) radiological protection; c) safety of nuclear installations; d) waste management.
2. The name Europe comes from: a) A heroine in Greek mythology; b) one of the nine muses; c) one of the three graces; d) the first map of Europe by Strabo.
3. Greenland: a) is part of Denmark and therefore a member of the EU; b) is a member of the European Free Trade Association; c) has applied for membership of the EU; d) is no longer a member of the EU.
4. There are 15 million agricultural workers in the EU. Which country has the most? a) Germany; b) France; c) Italy; d) Spain.
5. The Commission does not have an office or a delegation in: a) Vienna; b) Washington; c) New York; d) Melbourne.
6. The next elections for the European Parliament will be in: a) June 1998; b) June 1999; c) January 1997; d) July 1997.
7. The Council of Ministers must decide unanimously on: a) EU entry visas; b) European Social Funds; c) political asylum; d) aid to developing countries.
8. The European Court of Justice is located in: a) Amsterdam; b) Strasbourg; c) Brussels; d) Luxembourg.
9. The Airbus consortium comprises firms from which four countries? a) UK, France, Germany, Italy; b) UK, France, Spain, Italy; c) UK, France, Germany, Spain; d) France, United States, UK, Italy.
10. In 1992, a major free trade agreement known as Nafta was set up. Which countries did it involve? a) Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt; b) United States, Canada, Mexico; c) Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Korea; d) Austria, Switzerland, Finland, Norway, Sweden.

(Answers: 1 a; 2 d; 3 d; 4 c; 5 d; 6 b; 7 c; 8 d; 9 c; 10 b)

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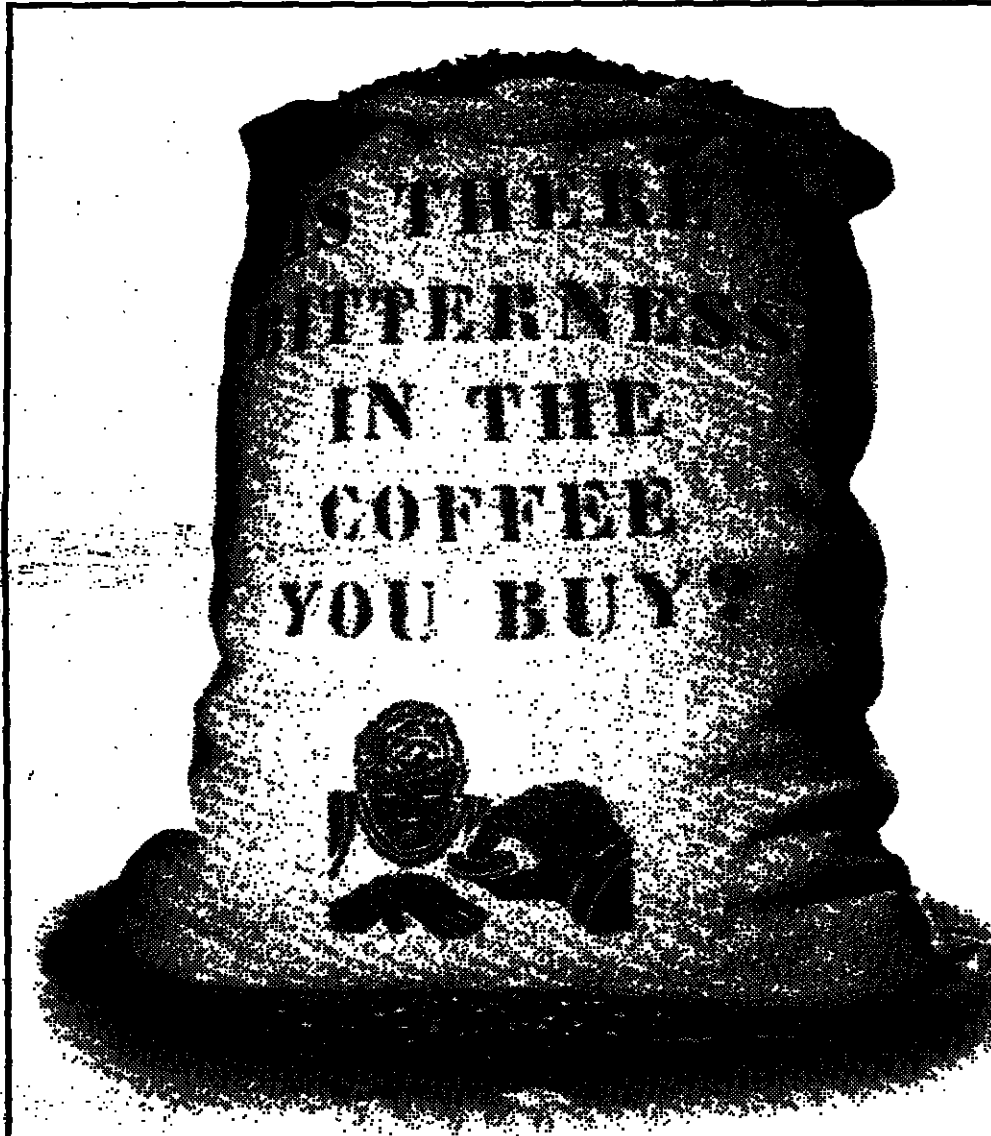
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Teenagers turn to heroin: it's fashionable and cheap

■ Young addicts are no longer confined to the inner cities, Stewart Tendler reports. They are found increasingly among the middle classes and in the countryside

HEROIN has become the fashionable drug among teenagers, with large quantities from Asia flooding the market and reducing the cost. Users as young as 15 are being treated for addiction.

Police are concerned that the drug, once the scourge of inner-city council estates, is being used increasingly by middle-class children who are moving away from stimulants such as Ecstasy and are smoking heroin in the belief that it is not addictive taken in such form. It is moving into towns and rural areas where it was previously unknown.

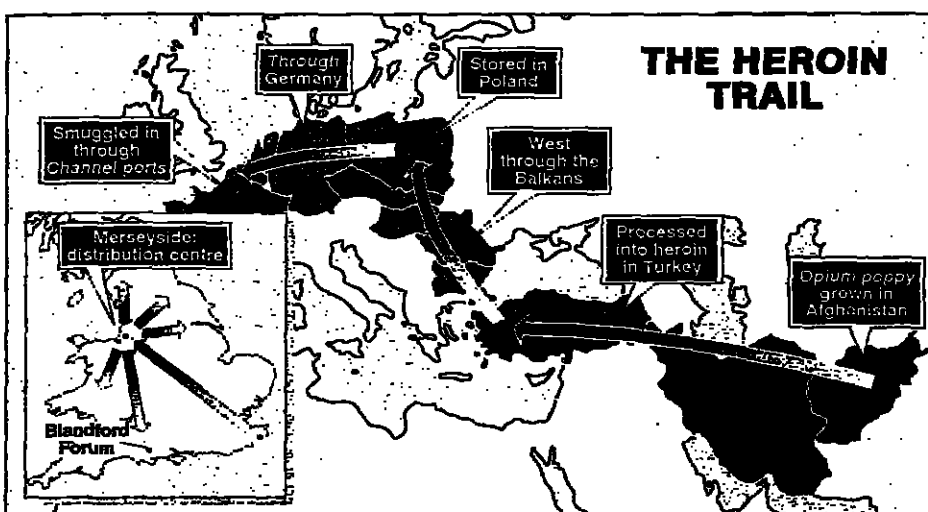
Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire and a police spokesman on drugs, said: "There is a marked increase in the use of heroin and the indications are it is still growing." Seizures in his force rose by 88 per cent last year. A dose of heroin costs as little as £2 in Bradford.

Annette Dale, of the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse, which represents drug agencies and advises the Government, said there were re-

ports of London, Merseyside, the South West and the North East being flooded with heroin. Phil Byrne, head of the National Criminal Intelligence Service's international division, said 90 per cent of the drug used in Britain came from the "Golden Crescent" — Afghanistan, Turkey and Iran — where opium production was increasing.

Jon Moore, spokesman for the Association for the Prevention of Addiction, said: "There is an increase in heroin use. The price is dropping because there is an influx. The growing areas are targeting Britain and the price is now cheaper than cannabis." He said £10 would buy enough heroin for three or four people to smoke in an evening.

Tim Green, a worker with a drug team in Tower Hamlets, east London, said the street price was still falling. "There are plenty of people using it and dealing in it. It's becoming a more fashionable drug. It's a very cheap evening compared with anything else you might do."



How the trail stretches from Afghanistan to rural English towns such as Blandford Forum, right. A youth worker said: "If it is happening here, nowhere is immune"

Drug problem reaches far from the madding crowd

By DANIEL MCGRODY AND STUART TENDLER

THE ancient Dorset market town of Blandford Forum is now caught up in the market of heroin. Out of population of 10,000, an estimated 150 are young addicts.

Yet nowhere could be further from the drug's urban image. Set on the edge of Salisbury Plain, it advertises itself as "the finest Georgian town in England" and was the model for

Thomas Hardy's *Shottisford in Far From the Madding Crowd*.

Ben Cox, curator of the museum, is currently planning a display on local crimes such as an 1830 riot over parliamentary reform, but said: "We will not be mentioning modern crimes like heroin. We are ashamed of it. We were convinced this happened in other places, not here."

Heroin is a more insidious problem in Blandford because the town is seldom disturbed by the presence of

heroin takers in its midst. The town became aware of the scale of its problem when lottery money and charitable contributions established a youth centre to which addicts turned for help. Ken Reynolds, who runs the centre, said: "Heroin used to be thought of as a monopoly of the inner cities. If it is happening here, then nowhere is immune."

Schoolchildren now receive lessons on the dangers and warnings about local landmarks where deal-

ers congregate. Louise, a 20-year-old user, visits schools to confess how she turned to shoplifting to finance her £50-a-day habit. With her scarred complexion and sunken eyes, she says: "The children only have to look at me to see what heroin does, but it is the only drug you can readily buy in an outback like this."

The number of officially registered addicts has risen from eight to 43 in the past year, Dorset Police say they are aware of the rise, but do not

regard the town as a priority. In Bournemouth, more than £150,000 of heroin has been seized in the past month. A police source said: "You pick any fair-sized market town in this country and there is heroin in quantities we have not seen before."

The problem is shared among other rural communities. Police recently found drugs in a series of raids in Lambourn, Berkshire, where figures show there are 51 addicts among the 4,000 occupants.



BT cut 31% off weekend calls to USA and Canada.



Urban myth that leads to addiction

MEDICAL BRIEFING

THOMAS DE QUINCEY and Samuel Coleridge, anxious and vulnerable 19th-century intellectuals, have little in common with those who now take heroin at middle-class parties other than that both were dependent on opium drugs to help them to cope with the stresses of life.

Opioid addiction is always changing. Although perhaps the 19th-century addicts had something in common with the dissolute, heroin takers of the 1960s, they would not have felt at ease with the council estate teenagers who took heroin in the 1980s.

A new and dangerous urban myth is becoming established among today's users: that, if heroin is not taken by injection, it is not addictive. But the pharmacological action of heroin is the same within the body, however it is taken. The initial effect may be greater if it is taken by injection, but what matters to the user is that its influence on the central nervous system is no different.

As tolerance develops, a larger dose is needed until psychological dependence is replaced by physical depen-

dence and the user is addicted. The most common road to addiction starts with polydrug use, when the partygoer is prepared to take anything going. Later they become interested in one particular drug, too often heroin.

The time it takes to become addicted varies enormously. Patients say that after their first experience of medically prescribed heroin they found the euphoria and relaxation it produced so profound that they knew they had become quickly addicted. Conversely I have looked after others who have shown no signs of psychological dependence.

Some users remain recreational drug takers for many months before becoming dependent. The circumstances are also important. American soldiers who became dependent on heroin in Vietnam usually rejected it later without much difficulty, whereas contemporaries who did not experience the horrors of war and started taking drugs at home remained addicted.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

Canada's Shameful Slaughter of the Innocents.

Not only is the Canadian seal slaughter back in a big way (268,921 seals officially killed last spring) but the hunt is being appallingly mismanaged by the Canadian government. Baby seals are being killed. There is waste on a large scale, with rotting carcasses and seal skins left on the ice. And now the government advisors want to expand the slaughter.

"this year I hope we are going to have 350,000 plus, probably 400,000." (John Efford, Canadian Newfoundland Fisheries Minister, interviewed on CKX-FM News, Newfoundland, 21 October 1996).

International fur dealers are also attempting to persuade the EU to lift the ban on the importation of baby "whitecoat" and "blueback" seal skins for the fur trade.

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*Source: DFO, "Seal Report", Licence and Seal Slaughter to date, Canada, May 31, 1996.



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South Africa panic over first cases of deadly Ebola virus

FROM R. W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

THE news that a Johannesburg clinic nurse, Marilyn Lahana, is being treated for infection with the deadly Ebola virus has triggered a panic here.

The disease, discovered only in 1976, has no known cure and in the six outbreaks to date — all in Africa — 82 to 90 per cent of those infected have died quickly. So potent is the disease that it rapidly entered the popular imagination in films such as Dustin Hoffman's *Outbreak*. The film's theme rests on the ultimate nightmare that the virus finally makes the leap from its typical setting in rural Zaire to a densely packed Western city — and it is this that now seems to have occurred.

Last night, health authorities confirmed that a doctor from Gabon, treated at the Johannesburg clinic recently for fever and multiple organ dysfunction, was tested at the weekend and showed traces of the Ebola virus. "He had the multiple organ dysfunction that is a symptom of Ebola, but not the haemorrhage that is typical," a spokesman said.

Mrs Lahana's condition was described as critical. The virus has an incubation period of from four to 21 days and frantic attention centres on the hundreds of people who came

into contact with Mrs Lahana, 46, in the past three weeks. So great is the panic that psychiatrists have been rushed in to calm the near-hysteria surrounding the case. Johannesburg is served by 72 international airlines with hundreds of flights a day, with London being one leading destination.

The possibility exists that the virus could break out of Africa. Doctors in South Africa are trying hard to calm such fears though even the clinic's manager, Dr Ben Rust, admitted: "We are in for a worrying few days."

Ebola patients suffer a sudden onset of vomiting, fever, head and muscle pains, diarrhoea, and finally bleeding from all body cavities and orifices. The ultimate effect — which has been described as rapid — has been described as the body's systems simply melting down internally.

The virus can be communicated by any body fluid (a danger is that it can be transmitted through semen up to seven weeks after the patient's apparent recovery), through infected blood or water, or even just by prolonged skin contact.

The fact that the disease is so infectious as well as so deadly and that no vaccine or

serum for it exists has generally caused African governments to treat previous outbreaks rather as medieval authorities treated the plague, throwing a tough quarantine ring around the affected area and effectively giving up hope for those inside it.

There is, of course, no question of this happening in Johannesburg, where the medical authorities are emphasising that the chances of the virus being contained are good because the outbreak has occurred in a clinic with high standards of care and prevention.

News of the outbreak has sent a particular wave of anxiety through Johannesburg's wealthier whites. The Morningside Clinic in which Mrs Lahana worked is in Sandton, one of Johannesburg's wealthiest white suburbs, which have hitherto tended to feel relatively immune from the tuberculosis and HIV epidemics raging in the poorer black communities.

Even if the present outbreak can be contained, considerable anxiety is bound to persist. Zaire appears to be the epicentre of the virus and the end of South Africa's apartheid isolation has brought an increasing flow of Zaireans to Johannesburg.



A South African nurse tests blood samples for potentially deadly viral infections

Doctors try to counter backlash against foreigners

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICAN medical experts last night appealed to people to remain calm as doctors attempted to trace dozens of people who may have come into contact with Marilyn Lahana, the Ebola victim.

At a hastily convened press conference at the Morningside Clinic, where the nurse worked, medical

experts said they were confident of containing the virus. "We want to emphasise this is not a virus transmitted easily to the general public," Dr Liz Floyd, director for Aids and Communicable Diseases, said. "You cannot get it walking down the street." Doctors said that they were checking all those who had close contact with the nurse, being treated in isolation in Johannesburg General Hospital. News of the Ebola cases

dominated weekend news, with the *Sunday Times* in Johannesburg running the story on the front page and television and radio broadcasting regular updates. There appeared to be a sense of calm among visitors at the clinic. One stoic young white father said: "I'm just going to take it as it comes."

At the General Hospital on the other side of the city, few people seemed to know or care that the

victim was in the immediate vicinity. Nevertheless several people expressed alarm, including Jackie Mohale, 34, a taxi driver. "What the hell are they doing moving her to such a busy hospital?" he said nervously. "I am so scared because it's such a horrible disease and there seems to be no way of treating it."

Mr Mohale suggested that to prevent this happening in the future the Government should restrict

people from Central Africa coming to South Africa. Medical experts gave a warning about a xenophobic backlash against Africans from elsewhere on the Continent. "The public might be inclined to call for us to put up the shutters against our northern neighbours," said Dr Neil Cameron, director for communicable diseases at the Health Department. "But this is an unrealistic response. Disease is not a respecter of borders."

Afghan veterans surrender to the will of Allah

Amid the war continuing north of Kabul, Anthony Loyd sees Muslim warriors fighting and dying with resigned fatalism



ON THE dusty battlefield plateau at the foot of the Hindu Kush, the will of Allah prevails. Victory or defeat, life or death: in the eyes of the Islamic fighters on both sides, all is in divine hands.

Flanked by snow-capped mountain ridges, the plateau stretches south from Jalal-ud-Din, headquarters of Ahmad Shah Masood, commander of the ousted government forces, 40 miles to the Taliban-held capital of Kabul.

Troops loyal to General Abdul Rashid Dostum, their faces topped by chequered turbans, man the heavy weapons on positions. Closer to the fighting, the troops of General Masood, hawk-faced, bearded warriors, hold the front line.

The fighting echoes from the steep hillsides through the mud-walled houses at Susakard, in spasms of shell detonations and chatters of small arms fire, the sounds of a war that has continued for 17 years like a brutal soap opera, new eras heralded only by changes in the cast of players.

Kamaruddin, one of General Masood's veterans of the war against the Soviet Union, moves like a lightweight boxer behind a bullet-riddled wall. He leaps from one ragged peephole to another, observing the scuffling forms of the Taliban among the ruins less than 100 yards away. "Grabbing his machinegun, he gives them a burst of fire, dancing to cover as the answering rounds come crackling back."

A young fighter appears from a foxhole nearby to join him. "Go back," Kamaruddin warns. But the young man runs on regardless, and in the safe leeway of the wall laughs breathlessly and prods my

flak jacket derisively. "Your moment shall come with the will of Allah," he chuckles. "You cannot escape it."

Around us the tempo of the fighting increases. "Is the offensive imminent?" I ask.

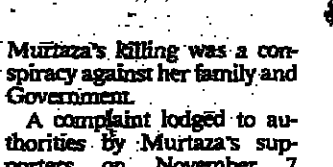
"Inshallah," the warriors reply. "God willing." "Can you retake Kabul?" "Inshallah."

"Do you think you will see peace in your lifetime?" "Inshallah," they answer again, laughing this time.

Two Mujahidin lead us back from the forward position. Taleban observers catch our movement and chase us along our route with rocket and tank fire.

The two Mujahidin refuse steadily to duck, however close the fire. They say goodbye to us on a stretch of hopelessly exposed ground, shaking our hands and turning nonchalantly back to the front.

Seconds later the first of a barrage of Taleban rockets explodes around us, forcing us to dive ingloriously into a ditch. Only when I reach the sanctity of cover do I think of the two Mujahidin. Where they had stood moments earlier there is now only an empty haze of blasted dust. An Afghan fighter shrugs beside me. "The will of God," he says.



Ex-spy held over Bhutto death

FROM REUTERS IN KARACHI

PAKISTAN'S former intelligence chief was arrested yesterday in connection with the murder of the younger brother of Benazir Bhutto, the ousted Prime Minister, according to the official APP news agency.

Masood Sharif, the former Director-General of the state Intelligence Bureau, was being held by Sindh province police as a suspect in the shooting of Murtaza Bhutto. APP said. The estranged brother of the former Prime Minister died along with seven associates in a gun battle with police on September 20.

Police alleged that Murtaza was killed in crossfire as they shot back in self-defence after his guards opened fire on them. Murtaza's breakaway faction of his sister's Pakistan People's Party accused the police and the Intelligence Bureau of planning his murder. Mr Sharif was head of the agency at the time of the killing.

Miss Bhutto, who was ousted by President Leghari this month for alleged corruption and misuse, has also disputed the official version of events. She said that

Murtaza's killing was a conspiracy against her family and Government. A complaint lodged to authorities by Murtaza's supporters on November 7 claimed that his political opponents had conspired together with some police officers to eliminate him.

Authorities have detained 12 policemen in connection with the case. APP said Mr Sharif, who was held in Lahore after Miss Bhutto's sacking, had been brought to Karachi — where the shooting took place — and arrested by local police.

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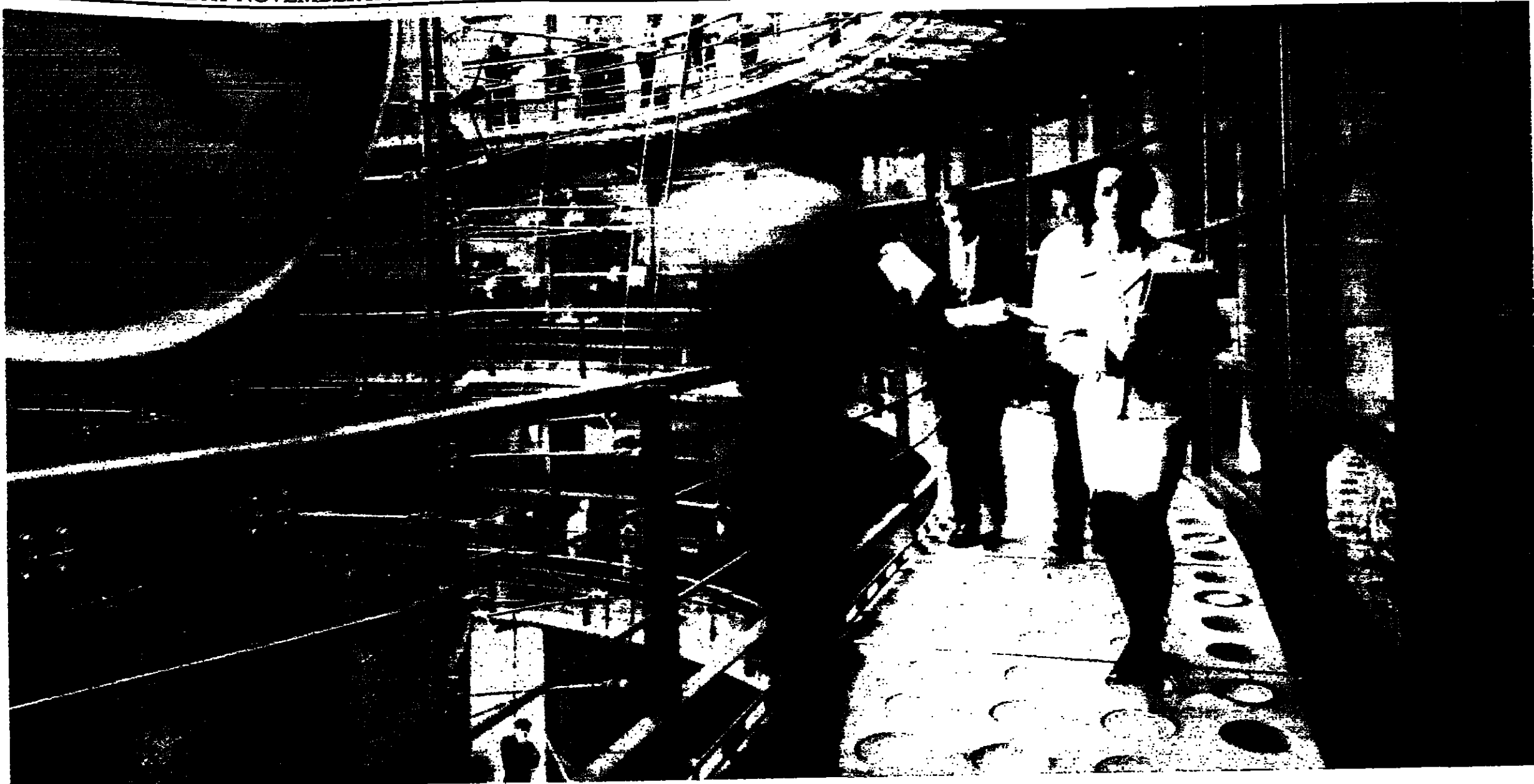
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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 18 1996



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Turkish Muslims muddy Aegean with Euro-sceptic tide

From his office on a mud-spattered industrial estate in Istanbul, Erol Yazar explains why Turkey does not need the European Union. Mr Yazar, whose bookshelves hold everything from American management gurus to Antonio Fraser and the Koran, speaks for a new political scepticism. Islamic Euro-scepticism.

As president of an association of Islamic small businessmen, Mr Yazar tries to undermine the unquestioned wisdom of several decades that his country can only succeed by always snuggling closer to the EU. Since the



Union does not show any sign of wanting to get any closer to Turkey, Mr Yazar is on something of a roll. His slogan is "High technology, high morality". The pro-EU,

secular political and business class, smarting at Euro brush-offs, finds itself on the defensive. The Government reels from a stream of sleazy revelations about casino kick-backs and dead beauty queens which have laid bare collusion between policemen, mafiosi and ministers.

The military is locked in an expensive war with Kurdish separatists and inflation is at 80 per cent and rising. A free trade deal with the EU has produced few visible results. Fear of a coup has returned.

Repackaging Turkey to suit the EU cannot work, Mr Yazar says. Turkey and Rus-

sia are the two European states with "strong history and civilisation" which cannot enter the EU because the Union does not want them. Membership of a Christian clique would anyway require Turkey to undergo a "blood transplant" which its Muslim society could not handle. "A country is like a body," Mr Yazar says. "You can talk about a change of clothes or a new language, but you can't change the blood."

Necmettin Erbakan, Turkey's moderate Islamic Prime Minister, has been talking Euro-sceptic language since he took power in the summer

and after Greece again succeeded in persuading the European Parliament to block aid to Turkey. The collapse of the Ottoman Empire gave Turkey land borders with eight countries: Greece, Bulgaria, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia. Anti-Western noises from a state on the edge of such a volatile zone give Turkey's fellow Nato members the jitters.

They are jumping at shadows. Since the end of the Cold War, Turkey has been learning the hard way that it does not quite belong in the

European, Arab or Central Asian clubs. The roly-poly Mr Erbakan has been touring places such as Libya and Malaysia in search of an ill-defined "Islamic" foreign policy. He would have done better if he had appointed Coto the Clown as his roving ambassador: he was snubbed by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, incensed President Mubarak of Egypt and found little in common with Muslim Asian "tiger" states.

The EU and Nato will be wooing the Turks before long. Turkey's help is needed in another attempt to sort out Cyprus which will start when

the island tries to join the EU. Ankara's approval is required before Central European countries join Nato.

Turkish politicians, have begun threatening that they might block the enlargement of Nato, the one organisation of importance in which the Turks have a veto, unless they are treated better.

What does Turkey really want? Professor Gun Kut, of Bosphorus University, a leading authority, is quite clear: better protection against misbehaviour by Greece. He does not claim that Nato can settle the age-old Greek-Turk-

ish quarrel, but he thinks it can publicly establish an equal share of sea and airspace in the Aegean. Rows over territorial waters have grown increasingly nasty.

The Government will ask its Nato partners to prevent abuse of Greece's position. Officials in European foreign ministries are trying to square this circle. Greece is as necessary for decisions on Cyprus and Nato. Expansion is supposed to be about Central Europe. But you will hear a good deal about the Aegean Sea before it is done.

GEORGE BROCK

Texaco to pay out \$176m over racial prejudice claims

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

TEXACO has agreed to pay more than \$176 million (£110 million) to settle a race discrimination lawsuit that threatened to wreck its image.

The payment, thought to be a record for a case of alleged racial bias, came as political activists sought to whip up a boycott of the oil company's American petrol stations. The result is a win for political agitation — what some have perceived as the "racial McCarthyism" of minority groups — over the old muscle of corporate white America.

The lawsuit was brought on behalf of 1,500 black employees of Texaco who claimed that they were unfairly treated when it came to pay and promotion. They alleged anti-black prejudice by white Texaco executives and accused company lawyers of destroying evidence.

Blacks were allegedly referred to as "orange-urians" and "porch monkeys" by managers, and one black Texaco employee was invited to join white colleagues in a game of golf — but only as a caddy.

A 1994 tape recording of senior Texaco executives discussing staff holidays around the Christmas period also appeared, according to blacks, to record the white men talking about "niggers". The tape

was made by an executive who later left the company. Texaco claimed that they were discussing "St Nicholas", and the tape was of such poor quality that it was hard to tell which version was true.

At the same time, Texaco's employment of blacks rose, though the total number of staff fell, and the company also offered a variety of scholarship schemes to minorities. This did little to appease black leaders, who demanded that the oil distributor should place more petrol stations in the hands of black owners and managers.

The settlement, which will be viewed as premature by some sections of corporate America, presents a pre-Christmas windfall to the 1,500 employees who will share a cash payment of \$115 million. The balance of the settlement will go in pay increases to black staff and in paying for "diversity training" throughout the company.

There will also be a revamping of Texaco's "affirmative action" programmes, which are designed to give additional help to women and non-whites. Only two weeks ago, right-of-centre commentators were celebrating a reverse of affirmative action at the polls in California, but Texaco's

yielding of this case suggested that the celebrations may have been premature.

Peter Bijur, chairman of Texaco, said that the settlement was preferable to a long-running legal battle which would only have further besmirched his company's name. He said: "We can now move forward on our broader, urgent mission to make Texaco a model of workplace opportunity for all men and women."

The recently-appointed Mr Bijur has been a fixture on television and radio shows, and decided early on to play things softly. He repeatedly expressed his opposition to corporate racism, believing that it would speed his effort to repair Texaco's name.

In America, a company needs only to be accused of having racism in its ranks to suffer a grave threat to its commercial prospects.

The National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People now has its sights on other companies. It had earlier supported calls for investors to sell Texaco stock; prominent blacks had cut up their Texaco charge cards in front of television cameras, and protesters had demonstrated outside Texaco petrol stations.



Alessandra Mussolini, who said that she was returning to people who had "never betrayed their forefathers"

Mussolini defects to party 'loyal to my grandfather'

BY RICHARD OWEN

THE granddaughter of Il Duce, Alessandra Mussolini, deserted the "post-Fascist" Alleanza Nazionale and said she was about to join a hardline far-right group which claims it has stayed loyal to the ideas of her grandfather.

Signora Mussolini, 33, said she wanted to "come home as a prodigal daughter" to the Tricolour Flame, a small neo-Fascist splinter group which has one senator but no MPs. Signora Mussolini is MP for Naples and Ischia, where she stood for the Alleanza Nazionale in last April's election. She said the alliance had betrayed a movement which had "eternal ideals" and had "written in blood some of the most noble chapters of Italian history".

The leader of The Flame, Pino Rauti, said Signora Mus-

solini was "young, beautiful, passionate and bears a name which sends shivers down one's spine". *La Repubblica* said Signora Mussolini would stand for Mayor of Rome for The Flame next year against Francesco Rutelli, the left-wing incumbent.

The defection is a blow to Gianfranco Fini, leader of the Alleanza Nazionale, whose declared aim was to forge a mainstream conservative party out of the ideological and political heritage of Mussolini's Blackshirts. In 1992 he dissolved the Movimento Sociale Italiano, which was formed out of the ashes of fascism. In its place Signor Fini formed the Alleanza Nazionale, which won six million votes in the last election. Hardliners who disagreed with the move to moderation, formed The

Flame. Signora Mussolini has shown increasing disaffection with Signor Fini, whom she accuses of "de-ideologising the Right". In the summer she left the alliance caucus in Naples, and last week she left the parliamentary faction in Rome. Signora Mussolini, who shares the voluptuous good looks of her aunt, the actress Sophia Loren, was given a rapturous reception at a weekend congress near Siena of The Flame, whose members revere Mussolini.

"I heard the call of my conscience," she told them. "I am back among people who have never betrayed their forefathers." Signor Rauti assured her she would be given a party post "consonant with your name, your prestige and your capacities". Signor Fini said she had "bought a one-way ticket to oblivion".

Italy wants currency club to let lira back in

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Italian centre-left Government led by Professor Romano Prodi celebrated the passage of its controversial 1997 "budget for Europe" at the weekend in the face of a right-wing boycott, and vowed to bring the lira back into the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM).

But senior ministers soft-pedalled on promises to reintroduce the lira into the ERM "by the end of the year", saying it would "take a little time" to persuade Italy's European partners that the budget had created the necessary conditions for re-entry. The European Commission is to give its initial verdict in Brussels this week.

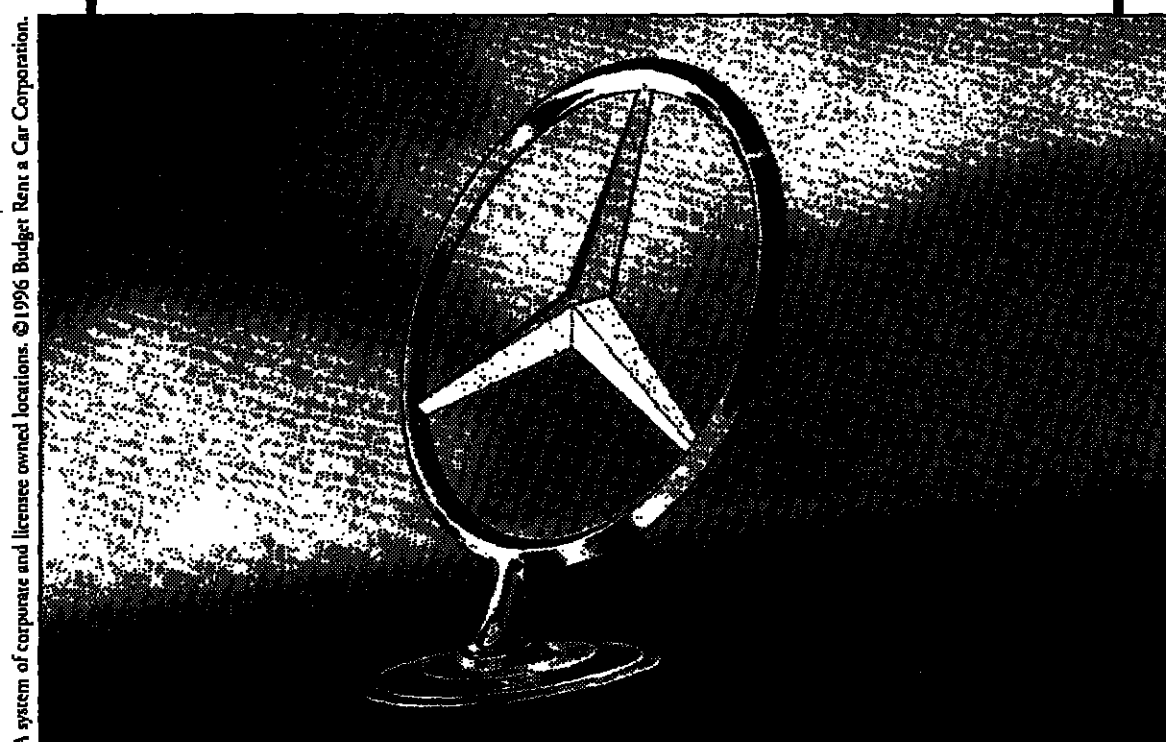
The Centre Right, led by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and former Prime Minister, followed up its successful anti-tax demonstrations of a week ago with further protests throughout Italy yesterday in what he called a "Sunday for freedom". He told a rally in Milan: "We will not take responsibility for a budget which is going to ruin the country."

The Centre Right boycotted the budget vote in the lower house, where the Government has a majority with the support of the hard-left Rifondazione Comunista. The budget is designed to cut next year's public deficit by \$40 billion (£24.7 billion). Out of deference to the hard Left, the Prodi coalition opted to raise revenue through tax rises rather than cuts in pensions and welfare spending. It proposed an unpopular "Euro tax", details of which are still unclear.

Signor Prodi said he would explain the Euro tax today to the trade unions, which have threatened a general strike. The budget still has to pass through the Senate. Signor Prodi insisted it would enable Italy to meet the Maastricht criteria for the single currency. However, he avoided predicting when the lira would return to the ERM, saying only: "From today, tomorrow or the day after, we will begin negotiations for re-entry."

Letters, page 21

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Beauty pageant stirs Indian passions

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Miss World pageant, hosted by India for the first time, is being disrupted by mass protests and self-immolation threats by Hindus protesting that it insults traditional values. A court is to rule this week on an application to ban the event, due to be watched on television by two billion people worldwide on Saturday.

The turmoil highlights unprecedented strains imposed on Indian society by economic liberalisation and the spread of satellite television. Programmes such as Baywatch are seen in the remotest villages on cable hook-ups.

Mahila Jagran Samiti (Forum to Awaken Women), an activist group, has threatened violence if the courts refuse to ban the pageant. Several women have pledged to infiltrate the crowds and immolate themselves or take cyanide capsules in front of television cameras.

One man died by self-immolation on Thursday in protest against the pageant,

which is being held in the southern city of Bangalore — the hi-tech capital of India. Police yesterday stopped a march by 800 Communist activists to a hotel where the 88 competitors were attending a function.

The suicide has cast a gloom over the event. "This is the land of Gandhi, the land of peace," Natalia Carvajal Lorenz, Miss Costa Rica, said. "How can they take such an extreme step? Everybody has a right to protest but not in this form. I am very concerned."

Police have deployed 12,000 officers for the pageant, and an additional 2,000 paramilitary forces will join the security operation for the main event on Saturday.

The pageant is also dogged by allegations of racism. African competitors say the media are ignoring them because they are black. "I didn't expect this kind of discrimination in India. I am really disappointed," said Shose Akaro, of Tanzania.

Romanian leadership poll 'too close to call'

BY SEAN HILLIN IN BUCHAREST AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MILLIONS of Romanians turned out to vote for a president yesterday in a second-round election amid claims of endemic corruption.

The close contest threatened to end President Iliescu's seven years in power and symbolically finish the 1989 anti-Communist revolt. Mr Iliescu, a senior official under Nicolae Ceausescu, the murdered dictator, managed a small lead over Emil Constantinescu, an academic who held no office

under communism, in the first round of voting. However, the vote was too close to call yesterday.

The left-wing Government was brought down by Mr Constantinescu's Democratic Convention two weeks ago after ruling since the revolution. Radical changes have been urged to improve the country's image. The opposition says Communists hijacked the revolution to seize power.

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British rethink on Zaire mission as exodus continues

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN would not send troops to Zaire on a wild goose chase, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, said yesterday. He noted that if there was still a humanitarian job to be done, London would go ahead with deployment.

The 43-member British reconnaissance mission to Zaire, led by Brigadier Jonathan Thomson of the Royal Marines, is due back today and will report to ministers on the fast-changing situation. Its recommendations will be discussed by the Cabinet and Britain will then co-ordinate its plans with other Western governments which have carried out similar exploratory missions. No decision is expected until later in the week.

Officials said last night that there was still a job to be done in Zaire and it remained likely that British troops would be deployed. They said, however, that it was vital that any mandate should be clearly defined beforehand.

The countries which have agreed to take part in the United Nations force are to meet in Stuttgart on Wednesday. If the Government gives the go-ahead, between 1,000 and 3,500 troops could be in Zaire by the end of the week. Officials said, however, that the lower figure was more likely.

Mr Soames, speaking on Sky television, said: "It is grossly irresponsible just to send troops flying all over the world in search of some will or the wisp." He added: "We're

not going to go unless there is a clear mission to undertake. If there is still a humanitarian job to do, we will go. If there isn't, we are not going to knowingly send them off on a wild goose chase."

He said the soldiers' job would be to create the conditions in which aid could be got to the starving. The troops would, however, be armed and permitted to defend themselves "quite robustly and determinedly" if necessary.

Raymond Christie, the Canadian special envoy to Zaire, said that a multinational humanitarian force was still needed in eastern Zaire, despite the exodus of refugees home to Rwanda.

"I can see the need for such a force... Don't think only of what you see on the television screens. There is a huge number of refugees that are absolutely invisible but are still very much in eastern Zaire," he said in a BBC radio interview.

Mr Christie said he had discussed the situation of the Hutu refugees with President Bizianga of Rwanda. "I reminded him of course that what we are witnessing is very positive news. This is what they have been looking for years," he said.

Mr Christie added, however, that there were still about 1.2 million refugees in eastern Zaire, and only a small percentage had returned home.

Rwandan authorities let the multinational force leave Kigali airport yesterday after delaying them most of the day. The 34 Canadians were allowed to leave with their weapons, but were told to report to Rwanda's Defence Ministry today.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees yesterday raised its estimate of Rwandan refugees who had returned to Rwanda from eastern Zaire since Friday to 400,000 and said at least 100,000 were on the way.

Mans Nyberg, a UNHCR spokesman at Gisenyi on the Kwanza-Zaire border, said about 215,000 refugees were still unaccounted for in Zaire and aid organisations had no word of their fate.

The International Committee of the Red Cross announced that it was setting up transit camps in Kibuye and Gisenyi to meet the demands for immediate relief for the returning refugees. It said it was well positioned to deal with the sudden influx to Rwanda, and had staff and relief on hand in Kigali, which had been quickly deployed to Gisenyi to meet those crossing the border. Emergency supplies include rolls of plastic sheeting, tarpaulins, gerry cans and 13 hospital tents. Further supplies are in transit from Nairobi in 20 vehicles.

In Zaire, the Red Cross has non-food supplies for 525,000 people and food for 250,000 people a month. This relief will be distributed to displaced people and refugees making their way back to Rwanda.



Two Hutu refugees, separated for two years, are reunited yesterday at a church north of Gisenyi in Rwanda

US still to decide on troop deployment

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

WILLIAM PERRY, the US Defence Secretary, said last night that the Pentagon would decide within a few days whether to commit American forces to an international humanitarian rescue mission in Zaire. "We are still prepared to go in at a day's notice but I cannot forecast at this stage whether we will go," he said. "It

could happen any time but certainly we will know in the next few days."

The return to Rwanda of so many Hutu refugees has clearly left the Clinton Administration in an embarrassing predicament. In the knowledge that President Clinton would be forced to announce a continuation of the American presence in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and effectively renege on last year's promise to Congress that American troops would

withdraw from the Balkans next month, his advisers initially had cautioned against involvement in Zaire. Under pressure from Canada and France, however, he agreed in principle last week that up to 5,000 Americans should take part in the Zaire mission.

Mr Perry sidestepped the issue of whether proper thought had been given to the deployment. The need for humanitarian relief had not gone away, he said.

Israeli defence chief accuses Syria and Russia of nerve gas plot

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK MORDECHAI, Israel's Defence Minister, yesterday accused Syria of building up a secret nerve gas arsenal with the help of Russian scientists. He vowed to destroy the weapons if the regime of President Hafez Assad refused to give up the nerve gas.

Speaking on the eve of his first official visit to Britain, Mr

Mordechai told Israel Radio: "We know that in Syria they are manufacturing chemical products for military purposes." He said some were being manufactured with Russian help.

Israel is already jittery because of a series of Syrian troop movements close to the occupied Golan Heights. Referring to an interview in this week's Sunday Times, the minister, who will have talks with Michael Portillo, his

British counterpart, said: "When I was asked a concrete question, what will happen when they [Syria] will use this weaponry against us — and the [recent] threat of the Syrian Defence Minister was emphasised — I said if someone will dare turn this weapon on us, it is clear we will act with all of the means in our possession: we will hit hard at Syria and obviously the regime will also be at risk."

In the interview, Mr

Mordechai said Israeli intelligence had exposed a Syrian capability for making and storing chemical weapons, including VX, one of the most toxic nerve agents.

Both armies facing each other on Israel's vulnerable northern border have been on full alert for more than a month. Three weeks ago, Syria and Israel came close to war when they carried out annual war games on both sides of the Golan plateau, seized from

Syria in 1967. Syria ordered its Scud missiles to be deployed around the country of 18 million people. "It is these Scud missiles which would be used to carry the nerve gas," the minister said.

Israeli-Syrian peace talks were broken off in March after a series of Islamic suicide bombs claimed the lives of more than 60 people in Israel. President Assad has refused to talk further until Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime

Minister, repeats a pledge given by the previous Labour Government that he is prepared to hand back the Golan in exchange for a peace deal. □ Missing airman: Speculation grew yesterday that a German-brokered prisoner swap was being negotiated over Ron Arad, the Israeli airman missing since his plane was shot down over Lebanon in 1986. Israeli officials think he is being held by Islamic extremists.

Sect deaths fear

Paris: Survivors of mass killings in Switzerland and France in 1994 by the Order of the Solar Temple have formed a new network and could be planning a massacre, a judicial investigator said.

Revolt recalled

Athens: About 5,000 demonstrators marched through the capital to commemorate a bloody student uprising 23 years ago against the military junta that ruled Greece from 1967 to 1974. (Reuters)

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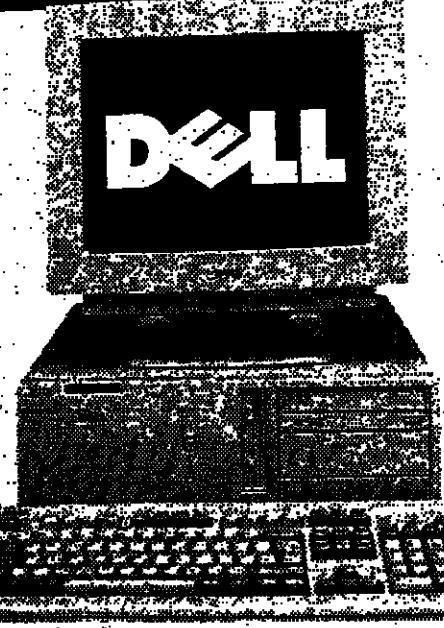
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Introducing a five-day series advising parents on how to choose the right type of school.

The academic league tables published this week represent a triumph for parental choice. Though politicians like to take credit, it was the newspapers, including *The Times*, that forced the Government's hand on the publication of exam results.

Not everyone was in favour. Head teachers fought hard to prevent parents being in a position to compare one school's results with another. The heads of independent schools were no less determined than their state school colleagues to deny parents the information on which a choice could be made. It was not their finest hour.

Unless you have held the reins of a school it is difficult to appreciate just how paranoid you feel about unfavourable public comparisons with rival schools. But that does not excuse the continuing attempts by head teachers to undermine the credibility of the league tables. The problem for parents is to distinguish between criticisms that have some substance and smoke-screens to cover a school's disappointing performance.

The limitations of the league tables are well-known. No one has ever suggested that they tell the

whole truth about schools. Whether the independent sector's plans to give a standard test to all pupils on entry and to use this as the baseline for a value added table will give parents useful information remains to be seen.

The different versions of the league tables are also inconsistent. It is extraordinary that the Department for Education and the independent schools cannot agree whether general studies should be included in the A-level table or whether results should be based on the age cohort or the year group.

But these limitations do not detract from the tables' essential purpose, which is to facilitate parental choice by enabling parents to make direct comparison between schools. It is raw data but parents are perfectly capable of taking other factors into account, including the nature of the school's entry.

The publication of league tables is all the more important at a time when both state and independent

schools are developing sophisticated public relations techniques. So when a school claims to stand for academic excellence, it is interesting to see if it is in the top 500 in the A-level league table. The hard evidence is a useful corrective to the hard sell.

Those who dismiss the league tables as worthless because they only demonstrate that selective schools do better in public exams are being disingenuous. If that was all the tables revealed, head teachers would not be so keen to rubbish them. What the league tables reveal is what the education establishment is so reluctant to acknowledge: some schools are better than others and this cannot always be explained in terms of the school's entry. Two selective



Academic league tables have become a vital aid, says Dr John Rae

in the large cities. The league tables also help parental choice at different stages in a school career. When it comes to the sixth-form stage, for example, many pupils are restless for the more relaxed regime and rich A-level choice that appears to be available in a further education or sixth-form college.

But a glance at the performance tables for these colleges will show that such a move may involve considerable academic risk. With a few exceptions, colleges are not in the same league when it comes to producing good A levels as the traditional sixth form.

League tables are so useful to parents selecting a school, they should now be extended to provide more detailed information. I

am sceptical about the concept of a value-added table but there is no reason why there should not be an A-level table comparing schools' results in each academic subject.

Parents may be tempted to believe that because a school's A-level score is good, all academic departments are equally strong. But this is seldom the case: the best schools almost always have a weak department. If I had a son or daughter who wanted to be a doctor, or who was passionate about history, it would be very helpful to know which were the best schools for science and history in our area.

It would be interesting to know what additional information parents who are *Times* readers would like to have. Schools' average A-level scores over a five-year period? A table based on the candidate's best three A levels not on four (or even five) which at present gives some schools a distinct advantage?

In the run-up to the general election, any political party that tries to limit rather than increase

the amount of information given in league tables will meet fierce opposition from parents. Labour and the Liberal Democrats appear to be equivocal on the subject. Both say they want parents to have information but both are lukewarm about parental choice and regard comparison between schools as not only invidious but unnecessary.

Such attitudes will win few votes. When it comes to information about schools, parents are not prepared to be patronised by politicians. They are not asking, *can* in hand, whether they may be allowed to compare one school's performance with another. They are demanding the right to do so and to have all the information given to them.

League tables are not only a triumph for parental choice, they are a triumph of the popular will over the elite who think they know how much it is safe to tell the ordinary people. How very British that attitude is, but how out of touch with the expectations of parents.

©The author is a former Head Master of Westminster School. His book *Letters to Parents* will be published next year.

IAN WELLS

Caught in the junior rat race

Over the next few weeks countless thousands of parents will try to decide which school or sixth-form college is best for their children. Many will look at league tables, talk to their neighbours, attend open days, discuss it with their offspring and existing teachers and yet still make the wrong decisions.

For although most children prosper and progress at school even if they are unhappy, there is a significant minority for whom the choice of school is a major part of the problem. Olivia Fangen is now enjoying herself and doing well at Esher Sixth Form College. But for four years she went through something of an educational purgatory. Her mother, Nina Fangen, says: "At 11 Olivia was very quiet so we felt Surbiton High, a good but not too pushy school, would be ideal. However, she grew up fast and found their very strict dress code very repressive, and she rebelled totally. In the end, we had to move her to a boarding school. My other daughters go to similar girls' public schools where the dress code is not so strict, but it is a question of personality. It may be because Olivia is the middle one: the others might have put up with it and not demanded to be taken away."

Other parents who made

Parents should trust their instincts more, says Hugh Thompson

similar mistakes are reluctant to be identified for fear of damaging their children's prospects. John, for example, has a girl in the sixth form at one of the best academic girls' schools in Britain. He says: "She is not happy. But she now says she turned down less academic schools because she wanted to please us. Some children are less competitive than others. It may turn out OK, but I think if I had my time again I would be much more interested in what happened outside the academic area. Are the children happy?" All parents eventually realise that one of the major reasons they choose a school is the performance and sales technique of the head teacher. Heads move on and schools change completely. Some head teachers are better at impressing parents than they are running schools. Also, in any school there are bound to be bad teachers or teachers who upset your child, which may throw them off course.

Lorna Vestey has three chil-

dren in their late teens and early twenties. All are highly intelligent, all have been to expensive fee-paying schools but only one got the A levels necessary to go to university. She says: "In the ten or so schools they went to, there were some good choices and some bad. The best were chosen by the children and I recommend going round several different types of school with your children."

"My youngest son, having done really well at his small prep school, rebelled dramatically and was traumatised by Bradfield. In both cases I went with what seemed to be the best idea rather than following my gut feeling."

Parents have never been under more pressure. The world of work has never been more competitive, A-level results and university courses can have a very real bearing on career prospects. League tables which seem almost to predict results are thrust down everyone's throat, many middle-class parents pay for private tutors to make sure they get into the best school and everyone is doing it. Not to enter this junior rat race is tantamount in some neighbourhoods to admitting you don't care.

One result of these pressures is that many parents ignore their best instincts and often forget the unique personality of their child.

Vivien has a son in the sixth form at a major London fee-paying day school. She says: "He hasn't ever performed to his potential. I realise now that we were more interested in the school's academic record than our son. It was our aspirations rather than what was right for him which were foremost in our minds. He was always someone who needed close relationships and attention and big city schools, which are



Nina Fangen moved her daughter Olivia to another school after she rebelled against the "repressive" dress code in force at her first choice

successful at mass-producing qualifications, haven't got time, especially if there are problems. We should have looked harder at smaller schools."

Other parents feel they were let down by pre-teen assessments which led them to believe their children couldn't make the grade and so they chose schools which didn't push them and the children underachieved. But some feel they didn't listen to experts enough. Evie Westock says: "My daughter's problems started when I ignored her junior school head teacher's recommendation and went for another school because the travelling was easier."

For most parents these problems are academic: their children will make the most of their choice of school. For the others, only time will tell if the child needs a big or small school, an ambitious or laid-back ethos, an elitist or democratic regime, a hands-on or a hands-off approach.

The secret of our success

PARENTAL choice is not just for the schools at the top of the league tables: they have more than enough applicants. It is those in more modest positions who really have to work at selling themselves.

Few work harder than Garibaldi School, in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, which is oversubscribed for the first time in its history. Numbers have doubled in six years.

When Bob Salisbury became head teacher in 1988, fewer than 7 per cent of Garibaldi's pupils passed five higher-level GCSEs. Only four schools in the county had a worse record. By last year, that was up to 33 per cent. The school has also sent its first student to Oxford, and 16 got into other universities. "Virtually everyone who goes to university is the first in their family to do so. They are all

role-models, but it is a gradual process," says Mr Salisbury.

The results "dine out on Wednesday will show a 'blip'. You cannot go up every year with a comprehensive intake," he says. "But we make sure that parents know the school well enough that

they have already made up their minds about us."

Children are first invited to Garibaldi at least three years before they transfer from primary school, and there are follow-up meetings for parents. The school also runs a junior football league, in association with Nottingham Forest, further reinforcing the bond with local families.

Parental involvement is the secret of Garibaldi's success. The school first hit the headlines for giving pub lunch vouchers for families as class prizes, and more recently a disciplinary initiative, in which unruly pupils' mothers are asked to sit in on classes.

Every parent is invited for an interview before new children are admitted. Adult and child are required to sign the school's code of conduct. The approach is paying dividends both in academic results and behaviour. Mr Salisbury says: "There is no blueprint for success. It's a matter of being quick on your feet, looking for good practice and copying it ruthlessly."

John O'Leary



Bob Salisbury puts his faith in strong parental links

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Heads go for the hard sell

State secondaries are learning the art of professional marketing, says David Charter

HEDLEY Walter High School paid more for its prospectus than the cost of a newly qualified teacher.

The investment by the comprehensive in Essex of more than £20,000 in a 16-page glossy brochure, which will need revising for next year, is just part of a publicity strategy costing a further £15,000 a year.

It is just one of a growing number of state schools matching, or surpassing, the traditional high spenders from the independent sector in the marketing game.

A survey by Tim Devlin Enterprises, an educational public relations company, shows that more than a third of grant-maintained state secondaries are spending £5,000 on their prospectuses, as much as the average independent school. One sixth are spending at least a further £5,000 a year on advertising to recruit pupils, a symptom of the way market forces are influencing priorities in competing schools' budgets.

David Spinney, Hedley Walter's American-born head teacher, robustly defends the cost of promotion, which he says has been instrumental in its revitalisation. The buildings, too, have had a refurbishment with images of griffins (the school's mascot) appearing in every classroom.

Deciding that the school should materially benefit from his new dress code, Mr Spinney set up a shop on site selling everything from blazers and badges to the ten acceptable shoe designs. Since 1993, when he arrived, the annual pupil intake has doubled. The shop has a turnover of £60,000 a year.

"We did a total redesign of our previously fairly shabby prospectus and went for something which cost a great deal of money. At the same time we recast the logo of the school. We put a huge griffin outside that we had designed and specially made up," he says.

The prospectus was planned on the results from market research into the school's strengths, written by an outside copywriter and filled with photographs from a professional session overseen by an art director.

It does not concern Mr Spinney



Pupils at The Hedley Walter High School proudly display their revamped prospectus next to the new griffin, the school mascot

that the marketing costs more per year than an extra teacher. The roll was 800 when he joined and will be 1,320 in two years' time.

Emrys Ap Iwan, grant-maintained school in Abergele, North Wales, also believes in the power of publicity. It spent £30,000 on advertising last year, but kept the cost of its prospectus to under £5,000 by producing it in-house.

Bruce Pyart, head teacher since 1985, says Emrys Ap Iwan had to sell itself vigorously to ensure that it even had a future. "Ten years ago the school was under threat of closure on the ground that it would have saved the local authority money," he says. "Advertising is a very high-profile activity in the school because roughly 80 per cent of our 1,400 youngsters live near other secondary schools."

Several retired members of staff help with publicity and marketing. A former deputy headmaster is press officer, on £3,000 a year. In all, the publicity team is paid £9,000.

The school spends £12,000 a year covering two double decker buses with the slogan "Emrys Ap Iwan is the place to be".

"They go all over the North-West," says Mr Pyart, who consulted pupils on where adverts should be placed. "We thought of advertising on television and in cinemas, but the pupils were against that. They said it would be negative because 'all the children would whistle in the cinema and they thought television would be too gimmicky'."

The annual marketing and advertising budget also pays for flyers sent to local homes, which have helped to bring in 100 adult students for vocational courses. Mr Pyart could use the £30,000 for almost two new teachers — but he argues he would soon have to lose them through lack of pupils. "If we did not do the advertising we could end up with 400 children, because there are fewer than 400 children living in Abergele," he says.

The Department for Education and Employment sets out a list of items a school must include in its prospectus, from admission criteria to examination results, sex education policy and leavers' destinations.

Mr Devlin's survey of spending by more than 700 grant-maintained and independent schools

reflects the general heightened concern with image.

More than half of GM schools have appointed a press officer compared with 42 per cent of independent schools. However, nearly 14 per cent of independent schools employ an outside PR agency compared with 2.3 per cent of the state schools, who direct media inquiries to either the head teacher, his secretary, or a deputy head teacher.

Five per cent of grant-maintained schools spend over £10,000 on their prospectus compared with 40 per cent of senior independent schools and 14 per cent of prep schools. Boarding schools are the biggest spenders, reflecting the greater pressure they are under to recruit pupils. One third spend more than £10,000 on brochures.

Why teachers must be smarter than their students

Schools trying to present a polished impression to parents of prospective pupils are turning the spotlight on smartening up their staff.

Last week, at a new training centre, a well-dressed band of head teachers (no male earrings or blue jeans in sight) gathered for advice and assessment on image and its role in recruiting suitable candidates to the profession.

Paul Howells, managing director of LHR, a recruitment service which has just opened a teachers' centre in Hammersmith, west London, told a gathering of heads from state and independent schools: "I am tired of constant criticism and the negative image attributed to our profession."

"If the many positive images of teachers and schools are not communicated, graduates will continue to ignore teaching as a career."

Mr Howells, a former high school PE and careers teacher, admitted: "I used to wear a blazer and slacks, but now I'm more of a company director so I wear a suit."

One speaker, Mary Spillane, a leading image consultant and a former policy adviser to two US Presidents, told her audience that what they said counted for only 7 per cent of the impression they made, how they said it for 38 per cent and what they looked like for 55 per cent.

"What would someone in advertising wear?" she asked. "Pony-tail, earrings and Armani," came the replies. A bank manager? "Dark suit, sober tie." A used-car salesman? "Green suit, tie with a mermaid, two-tone shoes." A teacher? "Hush Puppies, old corduroys, sweater."

But image is not just about what clothes people wear: behaviour and personality are also important. What should head teachers be like? Ms Spillane asked. Words like approachable, friendly, safe, caring and welcoming look priority over professional, progressive, lively or efficient.

"What about dynamic?" one head was asked. "Oh, you would not want to appear too dynamic," she said, seemingly shocked at the suggestion.

"I come from an inner London school with refugees from Zaire and Sri Lanka and we do not want people to feel we are so dynamic that we would not be able to work with them."

Ms Spillane was surprised by this. "That is why it is becoming a profession that is seen as a dead end, attracting dullards," she observed afterwards, "with a dearth of dynamic under-thirties entering the profession, Britain is not inspiring people to become teachers."

Still, Ms Spillane gave the heads plenty to think about. Geoff Clowser, headmaster of St Paul's Catholic College in Sunbury-on-Thames, Surrey, was surprised to learn that he looked too much like a bank manager in his smart charcoal grey suit, white shirt and tie.

"We have a dress code at our school of shirt, tie and jacket, and most people comply," said Mr Clowser. "You cannot tell off a pupil for wearing a skirt that is too short if a teacher is, too — which is an issue I have had to address — and parents have a certain expectation of decorum from us, which is why I always wear a suit."

VICTORIA MCKEE

TOMORROW

What does the future hold for Britain's grammar schools? The signs of a good school

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Crossed lines in space

RADIOASTRONOMERS fear they are about to experience the ultimate crossed line interference from a satellite-based mobile phone system that plans to occupy a frequency close to one they regularly use.

This week Dr James Cohen of the Jodrell Bank radiotelescope will meet representatives of Motorola, the US company behind the satellite system, in a meeting set up by the Department of Trade and Industry. It is a final attempt to reach a compromise, but Dr Cohen is not particularly optimistic. He says that it was easier to deal with the Soviet military over a similar problem than it has so far proved to be with Motorola.

The company plans to launch 66 satellites in low orbit, to provide phone, fax, data and paging services to mobile phone users. The first is due up next month, and the system will go live in 1998. The problem is that the frequency allocated to the service, 1610 to 1626.5 MHz, overlaps with one of the most vital signals used by radioastronomers — the natural frequency of the hydroxyl radical, which is at 1612 MHz.

The radio signals emitted by hydroxyl radicals in space are used by astronomers to study comets, star-forming clouds, and red giant stars. It is one of the best ways of measuring absolute distances in space. "There are whole classes of objects you can only study using that line," says Dr Cohen. "We are very keen to maintain that."

Motorola has promised that its Iridium system will not blot out the hydroxyl signals, but concedes that spillover into the band may exceed recommended levels. In the US



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

magazine *Physics Today*, Bary Barer of Motorola said that Motorola had never undertaken to avoid that, but promised: "Radioastronomers won't be able to hear us."

Dr Cohen is not so sure. If Iridium is a great success, he says, it will use so much power that spillover is inevitable. With so many satellites involved, he fears that their signals will occasionally travel right down the main beam of a telescope, completely blinding it. The rest of the time the signals may still be detected, though more weakly.

In the US, Motorola has done a deal with the National Radio Astronomy Observatory that allows the astronomers four hours a night of radio silence. Dr Cohen regards this as a poor deal, since stars move across the sky and having the same four-hour window every night limits to around two months the time over which any one object can be observed. No deal has yet been reached with the world's biggest dish, the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico. In Britain, he says, "Motorola proposes to operate the downlink as if our radio telescopes did not exist. We could not sign a memorandum of understanding on that basis."

The irony is that after years of negotiation, astronomers reached a deal with the Russian military over a navigation satellite system called Glonass, which also overlapped the hydroxyl line. "They went to extraordinary lengths to reduce the problem," Dr Cohen says, finally agreeing to shift to lower frequencies. "Just as Glonass is clearing the skies, Iridium is stepping in," he adds.

Lack of balance in the Biosphere

THE first scientific account of Biosphere 2, the great glasshouse built in the Arizona desert and intended to simulate the balance of life on Earth, shows just how difficult the task is. Columbia University took over management of the \$200 million facility at the beginning of this year, and in Science Dr Joel Cohen of Columbia and Dr David Tilman of the University of Minnesota review what happened when the Biosphere's doors were sealed in 1991.

Oxygen levels fell precipitously, while carbon dioxide levels soared. Vines grew rampant, but trees became perilously brittle. Of 25 vertebrate species present, 19 went extinct, as did all the pollinators. Most of the insects also died, leaving ants, with a smattering of cockroaches and katydids. Despite the efforts of the eight "Biospherians", and annual energy bills of \$1 million, the glasshouse came nowhere near to being a self-sustaining ecosystem. We are clearly stuck with the Earth we have got.

Hunting for genes in the family tree

A GENE responsible for Parkinson's disease has been localised by studying a large Italian family. The team responsible says in *Science* that the gene lies on chromosome four, though its precise position and sequence are not yet known.

Parkinson's is the second commonest degenerative brain disease after Alzheimer's, affecting 1 per cent of the population over the age of 50. For many years researchers did not believe it had any genetic component, but the Italian family, traced back to a common ancestor who lived in the village of Contursi in southern Italy in the 18th century, disproved that. Over the past 11 generations, covering 400 individuals, 60 were found to have suffered the disease.

Once the gene itself is found and sequenced, the nature of the protein for which it contains the recipe can be worked out. This may well provide clues about the cause of Parkinson's disease, and suggest possible ways of treating it.

Dressing for glimmer

Fabrics woven from optical fibres could provide 'smart' combat gear or prove a fashion sensation.

Report by Anjana Ahuja

They shine and shimmer, reflecting the light more beautifully than the finest satin. They are an exquisite example of science and art overlapping to create a new realm — the strange but glorious world of optical fabrics.

These fabrics are woven from optical fibres — the glass hairs used to guide light in communication networks. It may not be long before designer outfits made from these ultra-modern materials are seen on the catwalks. However, their potential ranges from the purely aesthetic to the deadly serious. In an \$8 million project funded by the United States Army Research Office, scientists are exploring the use of optical textiles for "smart" combat gear.

The project relies on the use of optical fibres as sensors. An optical fibre comprises a thin glass core surrounded by glass cladding. Light travels through the core by repeatedly bouncing off the cladding, like a pinball. This process, known as total internal reflection, keeps the light within the fibre.

If the optical fibre bends more than a certain angle, the light can no longer be reflected internally, and it shines through the cladding. Sudden illumination can be used therefore as a signal that the fibre is under stress. The loss of light through the optical fibre also means less light will emerge from the other end, another sign that extreme strains are present.

The passage of light can be affected by other external factors, such as temperature. Indeed, optical fibres can already be incorporated into the fabric of buildings as fire detectors. They are lightweight, cheap and the optical signals can be fed to a computer for continuous monitoring.

A change in pattern in these signals shows that something is wrong. Weaving optical



Fibre optic filaments — now they can be woven to create combat uniforms which could offer instant camouflage

fibres into clothing is more of a challenge, largely because of the flexibility required. But the spin-offs for the military could be tremendous. For example, if varying conditions could be made to induce colour changes in the light, one possible application would be army fatigues offering automatic camouflage. In arctic conditions the gear would emit white light, and in hot climates the clothing would take on desert hues.

Optical fibres can also be designed to sense chemical agents, or to detect when a laser beam is trained on a soldier. It is conceivable that, via tiny devices implanted in the optical cloth, a signal could then be relayed back to base to tell colleagues they are under surveillance. To turn these visions into reality, the US Army has pooled expertise from three leading research universities. Researchers at Drexel University in Philadelphia will concentrate on developing advanced optical fibres capable of reacting to the environment.

Scientists at Akron University, Ohio, and at the University

of North Carolina will perform the other crucial part of the research — developing textiles in which these optical fibres can be embedded. These textiles will have to provide protection, too. The Akron scientists are spinning impossibly slender threads called nanofibres to fend off chemical and biological threats.

Experts at the University of North Carolina have been entrusted with perfecting fabrics capable of withstanding extreme conditions on the battlefield. The aim is to produce the best framework for the optical fibres. There is even talk of developing a garment capable of resisting "mechanical projectiles", possibly bullets.

Then you need a computer to process the signals coming from the detector, which can tell you whether to run or whether to hit the ground. Ideally, you would have detectors on your front, back and on each side. The computer would be able to deduce which direction the threat is coming from, and decide the best action to take.

But when a communications link to base is added, will not the end result be a soldier staggering around under the weight of too much technology? "It's up to the generals to decide which capabilities they want in particular situations," Professor Reneker says.

Meanwhile, progress in this new field is not the exclusive preserve of the Americans. Sarah Taylor, from the Scottish College of Textiles, part of Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, has also been experimenting with optical fabrics. "Having light in a fabric gives it another dimension," she says. "We can use it for fashion, interiors or for more technical things." Interest has been shown by the Ministry of Defence and by a fashion designer. If fashion victims are prepared to slip a battery into their Calvin Klein underwear, optical fabrics may hit the catwalk sooner than you think.

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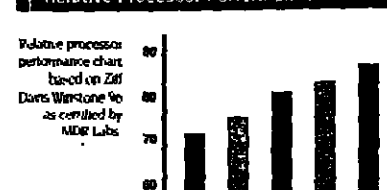
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Are they modern Medicis – or just a gaudy crew of vulgar salesmen?

Jason Cowley examines the spending habits of fashion's most extravagant designers

In an act of self-promotion remarkable even in the fashion business, Gianni Versace has just published *Do Not Disturb* (Abbeyville), a travelogue featuring photographs of his palatial homes in Milan, Como and Miami Beach. If ever proof was needed that the world of designer labels offers a passport to princely wealth and influence, it is here in these lavish, decadent pages. The scale of the properties is magnificent. With their stained-glass windows, furniture upholstered in gaudy Versace fabrics, Medusa mosaics, gold-tipped bedposts, and Italian marble, they are monuments to extravagance.

Likened by *The New York Times* to a "modern-day Medici", Versace has also commissioned art from Roy Lichtenstein and Frank Moore among others with which to decorate his fourth home, a multi-story town house on East 64th Street in New York. Asked why he was spending so much money on his properties, Versace said: "I have been in the fashion business now for 35 years, and it's very important to reinvent myself. Each house represents a different part of my life and a different mood."

Versace, whose empire has an annual turnover of £950 million, is not alone. For leading fashion designers are behaving increasingly like modern-day emperors. They live in veritable palaces, travel by private aircraft and move in a world of actors, pop stars, tycoons, supermodels, mediated by money and glamour. They also collect property, cars and art (Versace is believed to own 18 Picassos) with an almost child-like enthusiasm.

Ralph Lauren, Valentino, Karl Lagerfeld, Calvin Klein, Giorgio Armani – are just some of the super-designers who have grasped that, if they are to maintain the lustre and desirability of their brands, it is necessary to live life on a grand scale.

The fashion writer Michael Gross, who took a jaundiced view of the business in his book, *Beautiful Women in an Ugly Business*, says: "Top fashion designers are increasingly behaving like emperors of small land-locked countries, and are equally as isolated and deluded. In a world whose



Karl Lagerfeld, left, and Ralph Lauren are worth millions



Giorgio Armani, left, has five homes; Valentino has just bought a chateau in Paris; Versace has furnished his latest purchase, above, with his own fabrics



Versace at the finale of yet another bestselling collection. After 35 years in the fashion business, he is still looking for ways to reinvent himself. Each house, he says, represents a different mood

values can be summarised in the phrase, 'I advertise therefore I am', they are the biggest advertisers, or should I say self-advertisers, of all. It will be interesting to see which one flies closest to the sun first."

An Icarus-like fall by any of the leading designers seems remote, however. Though not all billionaires, they already have more money than they could possibly spend. Take Lauren, considered to be the most successful designer in the world. Last year £3 billion was spent on his products worldwide. The November issue of *Fortune* magazine estimates that he has accumulated a personal fortune of more than £1 billion. There is even speculation that Lauren will follow the lead of Gucci, whose profits trebled to about £47 million in the first half of this year, and float on the market.

Fortune lists what Lauren has spent some of his fortune on, starting with his collection of 30 vintage cars. Then there is the property: a 14,000-acre ranch in Colorado, a duplex apartment in Manhattan, beachfront homes in Jamaica and Long Island, a 240-acre estate in Bedford, New York.

Other displays of eye-catching extravagance include Klein's purchase for his (now

estranged) wife, Kelly, of jewellery costing £1 million from the collection of the late Duchess of Windsor. More recently, Valentino bought Chateau de Wideville in Paris, a former home of a mistress of Louis XIV, which has an English library and a lake of black swans. Not to be eclipsed, Lagerfeld has just furnished his sixth home in Hamburg with Biedermeier furniture. Although Armani has fewer homes than Lagerfeld (five), he is considerably richer with 2,000 shops and sole ownership of an empire with a turnover of £500 million. The leading female designer, Donna Karan, whose menswear line has found favour with President Clinton, among others, and whose empire is valued at a relatively modest £183 million, has a swanky Upper East Side townhouse, filled with red suede sofas the size of tugboats, and a Long Island beach house decorated with antique mirrors from Portobello Road in London. This splendid acquisitive-

ness is underpinned by a corresponding upturn in the global market for luxury brands, which is worth an estimated £35 billion at retail. Demand is especially strong in South-East Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Most of the leading names are engaged in an aggressive programme of expansion, opening emporiums and superstores in most major capital cities.

The expansion of the leading fashion empires is being driven by globalisation, brand extension into areas such as sportswear, children's clothes, perfume, jewellery, shoes, make-up and licensing arrangements, under which companies pay to make, distribute and advertise a designer's goods.

Licensing is crucial in helping brands such as Calvin Klein, which has a turnover of £4 billion, to establish a global identity, says Robert Trifus, senior vice-president of communications at Calvin Klein in New York. "We work closely with manufacturers and dis-

tributors to produce quality products to our design specifications. We then market the brand ourselves, controlling advertising and public relations. Licensing products globally is the reason why most of the big groups have grown."

Alice Rawsthorn, author of *Yves Saint Laurent: A Biography*, says: "The real boom to the fashion industry has come from the fact that people in the Asian 'tiger' countries seem to be dazzled by Western designer labels. Another trend is the relative decline of the big, traditional French fashion labels. They are not growing as fast as the new Italian and American labels, who have exploited the boom in casual clothes and sportswear."

"American designers like Klein and Lauren probably don't make money from their mainline collection labels – they are really just for prestige, to create awareness of their brand names and sell their perfumes. The real money is made from their sportswear lines."

She predicts that the astute designers will continue to accumulate enormous wealth, so long as they can maintain a balance between accessibility and exclusivity.

The fashion business may

be notoriously capricious and vulnerable to recession, but the emergence of a coterie of nouveaux riches in Eastern Europe and Latin America, eager to flaunt their Versace medallions and Chanel "double Cs", ought to ensure that these designers continue to live in imperial splendour.

According to Michael Gross people are "mad" to expect them to live in any other way. They may patronise the arts, or raise considerable amounts for charity, but "these people are relentlessly, voraciously exhibitionistic", Gross says. "That's what drives them. It's a nonsense to call them modern-day Medicis, because buying modern art, or whatever, is all part of the game."

"They are surrounded by people who are continually telling them they are geniuses. They buy up all this real estate, they see their images reflected in neon lights, on billboards and on the sides of buses. There are little shrines to them in every opicians and sports store. In the end, they begin to think of themselves as omnipotent, god-like creatures when, really, they are just gaudy salesmen."

HIDDEN EUROPE

A masterpiece takes its bow

LE MESSIE. "The Messiah", bears the most prestigious of all labels: *Antonius Stradivarius Cremonensis Faciebat Anno 1716*. It was one of ten violins still in the workshop of Antonio Stradivari (c 1644-1737) almost forty years after his death, and was sold by his sons to Count Cozio di Salabue in 1775. Apart from a dozen years in the possession of the French music teacher Delphin Alard (1815-89), "Il Salabue" belonged exclusively to dealers – Tarisio, Vuillaume and W.E. Hills. Tarisio was always promising to show it to his friends, but never actually did so. "It's like the Messiah," one of them said, "always promised, never produced."

The instrument, rarely played, sits in virtually mint condition in its humidified case in Oxford's Ashmolean Museum. It is nothing remarkable to look at. It has the standard body length of 356mm, a straight-grained belly, angular corners, plain purfling, slanting f-holes and a two-panelled back in flamed walnut. Its pedigree is only revealed by the orange-brown glow of Stradivari's unique varnish. The

key to a string instrument's tonal quality often lies in its varnish. Too hard a varnish produces an ugly metallic sound; too soft a varnish dampens the resonance. Stradivari, a master in all departments of his trade, found a varnish whose great elasticity was also durable. Hence the steady rise of his unequalled reputation. The violin made its appearance in late Renaissance Italy. It was descended from the family of six-stringed violas, and more particularly from the *lira da braccio*. It was extremely versatile. Its fine melodic quality suited it for solo purposes, while it was the natural leader of the string group of violin, viola, cello and double bass. As the "fiddle", it was easily adopted for dance music.

With the exception of Jacob Stainer (1617-78) in Tyrol, all the master violin-makers, from Maggini of Brescia to Amati and Stradivari of Cremona and Guarneri of Venice, were Italian.

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REVIEW: Tomorrow

POP

US singer-songwriter Sheryl Crow brings her new, more rocking sound to the Shepherd's Bush Empire
GIG: Monday
REVIEW: Wednesday

OPERA

David Freeman directs the Coliseum's new production of the modern German epic *Die Soldaten*
OPENS: Tuesday
REVIEW: Thursday

THEATRE

The newly restored Lyceum opens its doors with a revival of the hit musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*
OPENS: Tuesday
REVIEW: Thursday

CONCERTS

Lush realisation of a desert song

For a coherent interpretation of Elliott Carter's First String Quartet the Vermeer Quartet are uniquely well equipped. Securely organised in technique, and analytical rather than instinctive in their thinking, they are also apparently tireless in physique. In the 20 years they have been travelling between here and Chicago, to give concerts and masterclasses at the Royal Northern College of Music, the Manchester audience has had no more rewarding opportunity to appreciate those by now familiar qualities.

Vermeer Quartet Manchester

In the wrong hands Carter's First Quartet can sound as barren as the Lower Sonoran desert where it was written 45 years ago. Played with understanding, on the other hand, it is as fascinating as the Cocteau film which, together with the Arizona landscape, inspired it. The opening cello cadenza and the closing violin cadenza hold it together as effectively as the interrupted slow-motion image of the falling chimney holds together *Le Song d'un poète*. Everything that happens in the meantime seems to exist on borrowed time, which gives the work a peculiar urgency in spite of the exhaustive development of its thematic and structural logic. And if Carter's long-term aim seems obscure from time to time there is

no lack of temporary gratification in the textural events which so intriguingly arise in the course of their realisation — always providing, of course, that they are performed with the sensitivity of a Vermeer Quartet.

Those qualities which can be so valuable in illuminating the thought processes behind Carter's First Quartet, which must be counted as one of the great modern monuments in the string quartet repertoire, are not necessarily those which are most desirable elsewhere. It was a

good idea to preface the Carter with Wolf's *Italian Serenade* but the contrast would have been more effective if the shorter piece had been played with more charm and less sophistication. There were moments also in Dvořák's Quartet in A flat, Op 105, as at the lingering end of the first movement, when it seemed that romantic expression was calculated rather than spontaneous. On the other hand, in one of the most inspired passages in the work, after the pause and the change to the minor in the Lento, the characteristically open sound merged into a warmer blend at last and phrasing and colouring were as convincing as they were natural.

GERALD LARNER

Mystic musical tour

The world of so-called mystic minimalism has tended to spin on a broadly Christo-centric axis the universe of Jewish mysticism which encompasses it remains hugely unexplored by living musicians. A quick dabble in matters Kabbalistic reveals a language in which every letter is a number, a sign, and a sound: an unpronounceable Deity; a Divine Name composed of 72 triads of letters. But it is a brave man indeed who would meddle with such mysteries.

At London's Austrian-Jewish Festival, the Austrian-Gentile composer, conductor, early-musicologist and philosopher, Rene Clemencic, was that man. He directed his own Clemencic Consort of two counter-tenors, two tenors, bass, trumpet, three trombones and percussionists, in an hour-long, ten-section oratorio based on texts from the Bible and the Kabbalah.

Between the more descriptive sections came sound meditations on the unpronounceable Name, the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet, and so on. Clemencic speaks of using the "acoustical

realisation of Kabbalistic number structures", and various kinds of solmisation — a technique in which each note of the scale is associated with a syllable.

But what mattered, and what held the attention of the senses when the mind gave up, was Clemencic's own acute ear for a vivid and ever-changing counterpoint of vocal styles and musical resonances. His own scholarship

HILARY FINCH

Kabbala St John's Smith Square

terms of pitched and unpitched percussion danced in between what might be called "mouth music" — but was clearly a celebration of the primordial, vowel-less Hebrew language itself.

The performance was one of both precision and flair: its effect was to leave one Gentile, listening to another Gentile's fascinated responses, all too aware that we were outsiders looking in through a glass, as they say, very darkly.

HILARY FINCH

THEATRE: Double helping of obsession; plus a muddy First World War tale

Lots of fingers in lots of pies

Paul Kerryson's Haymarket has helped its audience to economise on fares by opening two productions on the same day: Sondheim's opera thriller in the main house and, up in the Studio, an exploration of love and memory by David Henry Hwang, author of *M. Butterfly*. Obsession is their common theme, but it is developed in ways as different from each other as one of Mrs Lovett's hot meat pies is from sushi.

Paul Farnsworth's set for *Sweeney Todd* exploits to the full the enormous Haymarket stage. When the auditorium lights go out, with sinister abruptness, and the

Sweeney Todd/ The House of Sleeping Beauties Haymarket, Leicester

steel safety curtain rises, to the accompaniment of the score's opening notes on church organ, we see metal walls, gables and walkways that appear to recede into the farthest Leicestershire. Figures assemble at the front of the stage, hunched like victims of capitalism, until, with a screech from the orchestra and ferocious top lighting, they jerk to attention and sing, "Attend the tale of Sweeney Todd". After such a beginning, how could we not?

It is a tale of vengeance — Todd's wife has been raped by a judge, his daughter abducted and he transported to Botany Bay. Christopher Bond, author of the play that inspired Sondheim, was himself inspired by Tourneur's *The Revenger's Tragedy* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*, and there is something of Dumas' hero in Dave Willetts' smouldering performance. He is lean, pantherine; he



You are what you eat: a pantherine Dave Willetts (Sweeney Todd) and effervescent Jeanette Ranger (Mrs Lovett) sing for their supper

pads the stage with only the one thought in his mind, or he waits motionless by his barber's chair.

The song his daughter (Josephine Baird) addresses to a caged bird includes the line "Are you screaming?" There is a scream pent up within Willetts' Todd, and each time the razor blade does its deadly work Sondheim gives us an equivalent discord on the keyboard.

This heavy stuff is lightened by the plump and cheerful, though equally villainous, Mrs Lovett, whose invention of a new food

chain — "Eat or be eaten" — may illustrate the rampant economic system but also generates one of Sondheim's wittiest songs. Job descriptions neatly rhyme with edibility: "Royal Marine? You never know where it's been." Jeanette Ranger is indomitably effervescent.

Not knowing if Todd will slit his throat or if he will slit the throat of someone he loves sustains the tension in the second half, though there is a falling-off nonetheless. Maybe, at just over three hours, it's a fraction too long. Kerryson stirs his cast

inventively to the end, and their performances are crisp and full-blooded. Stuart de la Mere's two contrasting songs as Tobias are particularly flavoursome.

Upstairs in the Studio, David K.S. Tse directs Hwang's adaptation of a deceptively delicate story by Yasunari Kawabata. On Ruth Tong's spare set (realised by Helen Skelton) of pool and pier glass, table and quietly boiling kettle, James Beattie's elderly Japanese author visits the madam of a curious brothel where old men pass

the night chastely beside drugged girls. This potent image of impotence supports recollections of past loves and dead lovers, beautifully spoken by Beattie and Tamara Hincho, whose delicately musical voice caresses the air between them.

The loves of the old are seldom the subject of drama but they are sensitively realised here by the two players in Tse's accomplished production.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Lost in the trenches

The Jingo Drill Trinity Arts Centre

already know: that innocent men were the victims of military incompetence, that the officers were as scared and disillusioned as the men, that morale was so low that discipline had to be maintained in the most brutal way, and that the Germans were as demoralised and disorganised as the Allies. The Scottish point of view is voiced as well, with our two lads entering the war to escape poverty

at home but soon finding they are even more exploited in the British Army.

The play portrays characters swamped in mud and lost in meandering networks of false trenches which lead nowhere. And so it is with the play, knee deep in circumstantial detail which obscures the narrative drive. One crucial revelation about Spicer is wasted dramatically, and besides, the publicity gives it away (although I shan't).

The stock characterisation of the double act of McKinlay (robust Paul Sykes) and Duiwinnie (en-

gagingly fat Gregory McFarnon) is enjoyable. The London stretch-hauler Roberts (Patrick Driver) brings a breath of fresh air to the stale atmosphere of the dugout. But the most complex character, Spicer, is a predictable creation, and crudely played by William Neenan, with outbreaks of craziness and much shouting and strutting about with a riding crop.

Director Fraser Grant would have done the play a favour by encouraging his actors to play against type rather than peddling stereotypes. A really compelling and interesting play might have been unearthed, had a good half hour of this one's rubble been shifted out.

CLARE BAYLEY

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MUSIC

The RPO, and its new Italian conductor Daniele Gatti, give the Royal Concert at the Albert Hall
CONCERT: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

BOOKS

An exhaustive and revealing biography delves into the life of the choreographer Sir Frederick Ashton
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

FILM

Harry Belafonte sets his sights on an Oscar nomination in Robert Altman's latest movie, *Kansas City*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

JAZZ

Contemporary sounds from the saxophonist Jan Garbarek and his ensemble at the Festival Hall
CONCERT: Saturday
REVIEW: Next week

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

I probably seems passé or even rather ridiculous to wonder whether there is a distinctive gay sensibility.

The burgeoning of a public gay presence has coincided with the progress of an elaborated feminism to become a feature of late 20th-century Western culture.

Homosexuality has been deeply embedded in our culture for at least 2500 years, and now and then openly celebrated. But today it stands before us, naked, undigested and unashamed. There is gay cinema, gay plays, gay anthologies of poetry and prose, roll out of historic publishing houses, there are gay painters and performers, producers, impresarios and pressure groups.

The movement has the enriching force of a liberation. But at the heart of it, is there something so very particular and discrete and substantially different? The other day I read a comment about a revival I had just seen of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* "I will

What matters most, good art or gay art?

tell you what it drives home incontrovertibly," said this woman. "Men hate women. Women hold men in contempt. Intimacy between them leads inevitably to their savaging each other." There followed a running on the destructiveness of intense heterosexual cohabitation.

But I had always assumed that the root and cradle of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* was a homosexual relationship. Indeed, only a year or so ago Terrence McNally, the American playwright with whom we were filming, took it for granted that everyone knew the play was based on his relationship with his author, Edward Albee. I believe, though I am not certain, that Albee has confirmed this. In any case, McNally's assertion is reliable.

So where does that take us? Richard Burton and Elizabeth

Taylor, who played the lead roles of George and Martha in the film version, were famously heterosexual, and yet the film works magnificently. Does that mean that although Albee drew on his homosexual experience, the constraints of the time impelled his imagination towards a heterosexual representation, and the effectiveness of the piece means that he made a successful gender leap? Or, at least as plausibly, does it mean that all intense couplings follow the same trajectory, whatever the gender?

Is human nature in general much more imperial than any comparatively slight difference between the sexes?

I spoke to a woman writer about this, and she said that the speech patterns in the play were not those of a man and a woman but more of a man and a man as she

MELVIN BRAGG



knew from homosexual couples of her acquaintance. She also suggested that the almost pathological points-scoring in the dialogue and such comparatively minor things as the movie references were a

feature of gay rather than heterosexual culture. Gays, she went on, labelled themselves — opera queen, dance queen, for instance — in ways rare or non-existent in the heterosexual community, and this again marked a crucial difference of self-perception. But does this affirm much more than the tribalism of gays, a tribalism made necessary over centuries by the horror and condemnation of a society which treated sodomy as an abomination and a crime?

Gender differences are treacherous territory. I remember an argument I had some years ago with the novelist Fay Weldon, when she declared that no man could truly create a fictional woman. I thought at the time, and think now, that a conclusive answer lies in two names: Anna Karenina and Emma Bovary. Again, when talking to Francis

Bacon on the subject of a gay sensibility, he was vehement in his insistence that though he was gay, and his paintings were very often of gay men as perceived by a gay man of his own generation and background, yet what mattered overwhelmingly was that he was a painter, and whether the painting was good or not in its own terms.

Though claims for gayness have been understandably extreme recently, I think the essence is emphasis and subject matter rather than a different sensibility. The claim for a homosexual gene is hotly disputed — Stephen Jay Gould, for instance, scorns the possibility. The anger and the outrageousness of some gay artists is rooted historically and not genetically, I think. Search us and we all bleed. David Hockney might be the

best example here. Openly gay, he has painted his lovers with a brio which delights that community but equally delights the rest of us. He has also painted women in a way which utterly denies any partial gender interpretation. Although it matters mightily in the day-to-day battle for a place on the social planet, gender or sexual difference does not seem to matter all that much in that which charges the creative force. The spark between the outstretched fingers is life or sex or both, but gender non-specific.

Gay sensibility then would seem to be more like Jewish or Irish sensibility — a characteristic carapace of a clan driven into itself and encouraged or forced to claim space and position through the dynamic of single and distinctive emphasis.

But the best work surely goes beyond the particular emphasis — as we can observe in Albee's play — and becomes one of the many tributaries feeding a profoundly universal stream of imagination.

Off the stage and back into the front lines

Joanna Pitman meets Barbara Hendricks — classical soprano and deeply committed spirit of refugee aid

Soignée as a film star, Barbara Hendricks sits in a Barcelona hotel lounge sipping fresh orange juice. On the outskirts of her mind hover concerns about her slight sore throat and the two recitals she must do in the next 24 hours, repeat performances of last night's Berlioz song cycle in a concert hall packed with rampantly enthusiastic Spaniards. But pressing in far more painfully on her temples is the weight of her responsibilities for thousands of refugees still on the Rwandan border.

Hendricks is the president of the Association of Humanitarian Action, a small, privately funded aid organisation she founded with Bernard Kouchner, the former French Health Minister, which on this particular day is in emergency telephonic session over what action should be taken in the region. "We're trying to arrange for someone to give us a first-hand assessment of the situation on the ground," Hendricks says. "It's immensely frustrating trying to organise things from such a distance."

"We were considering sending in a Boeing loaded with supplies, sharing it with other aid organisations. But you just don't know whether the supplies will get to the right people."

Hendricks has fired off a letter to President Clinton demanding greater political determination over the problem. After ten years in the humanitarian aid field as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and 20

years on the stage, she is used to getting prompt replies from people such as the President of the United States.

But she is also used to going into the troublespots herself and "feeling the mood". "I go into the camps to meet these people. Anyone can assess things so much better that way," she says, rubbing her fingers together in a sort of tactile judgment of the problem. Since 1987, Hendricks has visited refugee camps in Zambia, Vietnamese camps in Malaysia, Cambodian camps in Thailand, Rwandan camps

a lot less sleep than most of us. But while her campaigning blood is up and bubbling and currently fighting for mastery, she has never allowed it to take precedence over her singing.

"Years ago I made a pact with myself that I would not cancel concerts," she says. "I knew that as soon as I did that I would start to lose credibility. I have done ten years with the UNHCR and I have given myself two years as president of the AFIA to see if I can manage it. In the meantime, I continue to work at and enjoy my singing."

And the singing did come long before the activism. It all started in church at Little Rock, Arkansas, "where" the tiny Hendricks, one of five children of a Baptist minister and a school teacher, was the dardest little singer of solos in the school choir. "I loved to start the day singing in the choir. But even if my voice was a bit different, no one suggested that I should do anything with it."

After studying maths and science at university — she finished young, at 20 — she enrolled at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. "I knew that if I didn't try it I would always regret it. But my family thought I'd lost my mind. 'What's she been smoking?' they said. But I went and found a wonderful teacher, Jennie Tourel, who hooked me for good."

Now 47, Hendricks is regarded as one of the leading sopranos of her generation, and spends seven months a year on tour singing classical recitals, operas and jazz, and adding to her more than 50 recordings.

She is celebrated as a household-name diva in France and as a saintly celebrity in the refugee camps of Africa and South-East Asia — twin testaments to the vastness of her energies. But these serious roles have not been allowed to eclipse her individual self — warm, funny and lively.

Barbara Hendricks' latest album, *When You Wish Upon a Star*, is released by EMI this month.



Barbara Hendricks: star on a mission

POP: Nigel Williamson hears Celine Dion's exuberant voice fill Wembley Arena

Love that microphone

Celine Dion sells millions of records, yet however high she ranks in the pop hierarchy, her recognition factor remains stubbornly low. Her only image lies in not really having an image. She could walk down the road without anyone turning a head, remarkable for someone who opened the Olympic Games in Atlanta with her performance of its theme song, *The Power Of The Dream*.

The answer lies partly in her personal style. Dion doesn't do drugs, date Hollywood stars or command tabloid attention in any other way. On the one occasion when she did something that might have raised eyebrows by marrying the manager she had known since she was 12, the event caused few ripples.

While such lack of attention would drive an exhibitionist such as Madonna to despair, you suspect that this is just the way Dion and her husband-manager have planned her career. Born in Quebec, the youngest of 14 children, she had her first French-Canadian hit when she was barely into her teens. Now 26, her third album in the English language, *The Colour Of My Love*, has sold more than two million worldwide. The follow-up, *Falling Into You*, looks set to outperform even that.

Yet the second reason for her lack of public profile is that



Born entertainer: on stage Celine Dion can handle anything from funk and gospel to soul, blues and scat jazz

there is a certain anonymity to Dion's music that matches the non-image, at least on record, where her tonsil-bearing soprano and emotional ballads can easily sound manufactured. No fewer than ten different producers worked on the most

recent album and the result is polished, but lacking in soul. Live, however, she is a different proposition. This is her métier and she knows it, which is why the current world tour started last March and keeps her on the road into

next year. Dion loves to perform and she never stops from the moment she appears. Fred Astaire-style, at the top of a flight of steps until her theatrical Olympic finale. She runs up and down, talks ten to the dozen and indulges in a series of unlikely grimaces and poses, many of which appear to have been borrowed from heavy metal. Her particular favourite is to bend her knees and arch her back as if about to do the limbo, but she also performs a neat trick, throwing the mike stand around in a way we haven't seen since the heyday of Roger Daltrey and Rod Stewart.

It is all slightly old-fashioned, yet Dion is so

obviously enjoying herself that the relentless exuberance which is at first irritating eventually becomes endearing. She is, too, a singer of so much more than syrupy ballads. Her big voice sounded least mannered when singing in her native French but Dion can handle anything, from the funk of *Declaration Of Love* through the gospel-tinged *Love Can Move Mountains* and a soulful interpretation of *Natural Woman* to the bluesy *Le Ballet*, in which she also displayed a talent for scat jazz. By the end of the evening the reason for her success was obvious. Celine Dion is a born entertainer who never met a microphone she didn't like.

Morna has broken

ON THE night of the MTV awards a sizeable contingent from the music industry chose instead to go and see a 55-year-old grandmother from Cape Verde who speaks only Creole Portuguese. Nigel Williamson writes. The moment Cesaria Evora sang her first note at the Oris London Jazz Festival, it was obvious that those present had made an intelligent choice.

Evora is a phenomenon. She has been singing for 40 years but until a decade ago had never left the tiny Atlantic islands 400 miles off West Africa. Since then she has become huge in France and the Latin world and made an impact in America. Now the buzz is at work here. She is the queen of morna.

JAZZ
Cesaria Evora
Queen Elizabeth Hall

a slow, tragic music of poverty and grief, longing and loss. It has been called the African blues, but the sound owes as much to Brazilian rhythms. Imagine Bessie Smith or Billie Holiday meeting the Gypsy Kings in a minor key and you begin to get the idea. She sings barefoot, in solidarity with the street children of Cape Verde, and resists her movement to shuffling from one foot to the other, allowing her remarkable voice to do the rest against a

melodic, acoustic backing featuring the *carraquinhos*, a four-stringed local cousin of the ukulele. The language is incomprehensible to most, but it is clear that Evora is not celebrating her good fortune, personal sorrow underpinned by five centuries of famine and neglect as a Portuguese colony is her subject-matter. After an hour Evora sits down for a cigarette. The band takes the spotlight long enough for her to finish her smoke and she is up again for more of the same. And that is the only problem. Evora has a velvety voice of smouldering sensuousness, but there is little variety. On the other hand, when you hit a rich seam of gold you don't go off prospecting for silver.

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Rigoletto



Matthew Parris



I thought my mild phobia was just a personal one, but now it seems it may be primeval

People with phobias are usually different in degree but not in kind from the rest of us. Most of us experience a small shudder at the proximity of a spider, a rat or a snake. Who can say he was never brushed, however momentarily, with a sudden panic when squashed into a crowded room or lift? Anyone who thinks vertigo an irrationality to which he is immune should imagine walking along a causeway about four inches wide with a sheer drop of a thousand feet to either side. Almost impossible, you think? Well, that is the width of the yellow no-parking lines on our streets and you will find it very easy indeed to walk along one of these without the least danger of tipping to either side.

I have a faint fear — the very faintest, so faint that years may pass between the occasions when I am reminded of it — of birds. It is not a phobia, not in any respect. Around my Derbyshire house here as I write, live geese, chickens, ducks and pigeons. As a youth I kept two canaries, Gordon and Peter. I can handle these creatures physically with nothing worse than a rare involuntary shudder, which quickly passes. Nor do my geese scare me much: the key to confidence is to carry a stick — but you hardly need it. Through geese run hissing at you, they almost always stop short.

And, like most English men and women, I love the sound of birdsong and the sight of robins, wrens, swifts and swallows, on the wing and in the trees. The call of a lonely blackbird in the night will always be, for me, one of the most moving of songs. But I shall never forget a dream I had at the age of about seven. Everyone has an unforgettable nightmare which, described to others, fails to convey the full horror felt at the time. I was in a room surrounded by windows — an open, lowering, twilight sky outside. Along the horizon marched a line of black birds in silhouette. They approached, giant things, taller than me, and stalked outside my window. Then one of them got its claw beneath the door and grabbed my feet, starting to pull me under. I awoke trying to shout for help, my throat constricted by terror.

The first rule of interpreting dreams is to remember that the dream has not "happened" to you: you are yourself its author. You made it up. That a child of seven should construct in his unconscious mind a little horror story which plays out his sense of vulnerability is hardly noteworthy. More interesting is the choice of a bird as the symbol of menace, for I had never (so far as I know) been attacked or threatened by any bird, and was brought

The thing about dreams is that they don't 'happen' to us — we invent them

up to believe that birds are sweet. Nonetheless, my instinct of fear cannot be unusual or Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* would not have struck such a chord as to rank among the most memorable movies since cinema began.

Some years ago I returned home to Derbyshire after a week away. Crows had come down my chimneys and invaded all the rooms. Though I managed to control my fear sufficiently to catch and expel every one, under blankets, the experience of moving around an empty house, alone, with big black birds suddenly flapping at me out of nowhere was horrific in ways I find hard to communicate.

To understand the fear better, I spoke to a friend, Ena, in the nearby village of Elton. Ena admits to a total phobia about birds. An exceptionally rational person, very level-headed, she is a former science teacher, and has tried to disentangle the threads of her fear.

"When we had a small bird trapped in our lounge," she said, "and I had to catch it, I could only do it by imagining it was a bat. I'm not afraid of bats — they're just mice with wings — so I kept thinking 'it's really a bat,' and that way I could chase it."

"But it's not the feathers. I can handle or pluck dead birds with no problem at all. I think it's the claws and the beak, and the idea of something suddenly flapping at me, pecking. Those people you see in Trafalgar Square, pigeons landing on their heads and arms... well, I would die."

This weekend, news has been found casting doubt on the previous belief that feathered birds are of comparatively recent evolution. It now seems that a bird world existed alongside the evolution — and final extinction — of the dinosaurs. When the conjectured meteorite and subsequent Ice Age destroyed the great reptiles roaming the Earth, the birds were already there. They survived. Birds are, in short, an unbelievably ancient class far more ancient than we thought.

Perhaps this is fanciful, but I wonder whether this parallel world of winged, feathered creatures with beaks and claws has not been a rival to and predator of our earthbound world for so long that some instinctive fear comes to us, flapping out of the primeval smoke: a reminder of a time when forerunner species to our own had reason to fear attack from the air?

"I can cope with birds or fowl," said Ena, "if they're just going about their business, even if they're quite close, or if they're moving away. But if one looks at me, or moves towards me, or looks at me — if it catches my eye — I just go to pieces."

Now Labour has decided to protect the pound against the euro, it is time to protect it against inflation too

Keep sterling safe for future generations

I have had a wonderful weekend. On Saturday I had the bonding experience of having our latest grandchild — all of 3½ weeks old — fall asleep on my shoulder; he is a calm and self-confident baby, and I have been touched that his parents have given him my name. That gave me the feeling of the continuity of individual human history. Then on Sunday morning I woke up to the excellent news that the Labour Party has committed itself to a referendum before taking Britain into the single currency. I had feared that Britain might be fudged and bamboozled into the euro; that fear is now much reduced. At least the new William Rees-Mogg is no longer likely to be swindled out of being British before he is six years old.

Tony Blair's decision ought to be welcome to everyone in Britain except for the electoral tacticians of Conservative Central Office. It brings the Labour Party into line with existing Conservative and Liberal Democrat commitments to hold a referendum before Britain joins the single currency. Even the most zealous of Tories will find it hard to explain why it is right and wise and prudent for John Major to commit himself to a referendum, but wrong and stupid and cowardly for Tony Blair to do so. The Labour decision must have put all the Tory spin-doctors into a spin.

It also puts a safety-catch on the Howitzer of the single currency; at least so far as Britain is concerned, the big gun can no longer be discharged accidentally or without public consent. As the whole European project has been cumulatively discredited by the current membership of Brussels, abetted by some British Euro-fanatics, that is a great relief. These all-party referendum promises also mean that Britain is very unlikely to enter the single currency in the first round or in the next Parliament. They add another substantial delay in a schedule that was already very tight. Yesterday Gordon Brown stated that for Labour there would be no agreement to differ in such a referendum campaign. If the Cabinet recommended a "yes" vote, all members of a future Labour government would be required to support it. That makes such a recommendation even less likely, since it would immediately convert Labour Euro-sceptics into party rebels.

The decision sends a clear message to the other members of the European Union. All three British parties now favour a referendum. The other states must recognise that British public opinion has reached the limit of tolerance on transfers of power from Britain to Europe, and from democracy to bureaucracy. Whatever might be true in a generation's time, this British generation will not go further down the road to a European superstate. That may be created without us; it cannot be created with us.

Some continental Europeans, perhaps the majority of the bureaucratic and political class, will argue that this means that British withdrawal from the EU should be encouraged or even demanded. The dynamics of European Union without Britain do not, however, look promising. For France it would mean being left alone with Germany. In my view, fear of Germany is greatly exaggerated, both by the French and by British Euro-sceptics. I like and admire the achievements of post-war Germany, and do not fear the Germans one bit. Why should one fear a democratic power with only 1.5 per cent of the

world's population, wholly dependent on American defence against the nuclear power of Russia, with a middle-aged population, a middle-aged economy and over-heavy social and economic burdens. It is as about as rational spending one's life in fear of Germany as it would be fearing Canada: the problem of Germany in Europe is that she does not have power enough to meet her responsibilities. Nevertheless, the French do fear Germany, and would feel lonely if the British counterweight were

wholly removed. Of course, they would only have themselves to blame: they have largely created the problem by manipulating the Franco-German alliance to the exclusion of others.

The Germans would be in even worse shape than the French. Germany would be the father figure of Europe, expected to pay all the bills out of a sadly overstretched income. New and hungry children — Poland, Hungary, the Czechs, the Slovaks — are pressing to be adopted into the German Euro-cradle, and are already looking pitifully through its plate-glass windows. If the superstate comes into existence, it

will have to acquire the democratic legitimacy the EU lacks at present. The Lutheran and Nordic part of Germany would then face a European majority which is either Roman Catholic or Mediterranean or both. The citizens of Palermo would vote to put their hands into the pockets of the burghers of Hamburg, as they have already plundered the Milanese. Germany needs to have a big North Sea partner to balance the olive-growers.

The concept of a flexible and competitive Europe of nation states almost unites British opinion; it even occupies half the brains of the two great Euro-philosophes, Kenneth Clarke and Gordon Brown, even if the other hemisphere is in each case full of sentimental pan-Europeanism and other Wagnerian echoes. The referendum decision rejects the Maastricht project of a single federal government of Europe.

There is only one threat to this resolve. Britain has a poor post-war record of maintaining the value of the currency. "As good as gold" is still a meaningful phrase, "as good as sterling" would now be a joke. If the present surge in the money supply, which is already inflating asset values, turns into another inflationary boom, as Tim Congdon fears, confidence in an independent pound will be further eroded. How unsteady the euro might be, no one can yet be sure; it certainly would not be as good as the mark, but it might be better than an inflationary pound.

The pound needs to be defended by an independent Bank of England. The nationalisation of the Bank of England by the post-war Labour Government was probably the most damaging of all the nationalisations, because it politicised money and opened the way for the post-war inflation. An independent British central bank might be expected to perform as well as the Federal Reserve, if not as well as the post-war Bundesbank. During the recession of the 1990s, the Bank of England was probably too reluctant to cut interest rates, but in the longer term, better look after the value of money better than politicians. Before Labour's referendum commitment, proposals for an independent Bank of England were suspect, because they were part of the single currency process. Now it has become essential if an independent pound is to be better than the euro, and more comparable to the mark.

One should give a word of thanks to Sir James Goldsmith. Without his campaign, the pressure for a Labour referendum commitment would probably not have overcome resistance inside the Shadow Cabinet. Tony Blair has increasingly come to recognise the economic risks of joining the single currency, and particularly the risk of higher unemployment. But the Goldsmith pressure must have brought him closer to the point of political decision. "Soft on Europe" was the most damning accusation the Tories or Goldsmith could make against Labour, and the Goldsmith budget, with its large advertising budget, had the power to press that home. Tony Blair has removed that weapon, particularly from the Tories, whose European policy is now much more similar to Labour's than Gordon Brown himself would ever admit. No nationalisation, no new trade union powers, no higher taxes, no single currency — there has never been so unfrustrating a Labour Party. We are all Euro-sceptics now.

William Rees-Mogg

Testing times for Mr Brown

Should we believe Labour's budget pledges?

Well, says Peter Riddell, sum and sum

The Budget is as much a test for Gordon Brown as for Kenneth Clarke. When the Chancellor sits down a week tomorrow, attention will immediately turn to the Shadow Chancellor: what would you do? To escape this trap, Mr Brown is now playing for time.

The Budget has become almost an economic non-event. The only real question is how little damage it will do. That may seem hard on Mr Clarke. He has been a robust Chancellor. In what will probably be his last Budget, he will want to be remembered as responsible. Yet he is bound to take more risks than he would if an election did not have to be called within six months. The best that can be hoped is that he will be semi-responsible: after all, last Friday's MORI poll suggests that a majority of the public, including Tory supporters, do not want a 1p cut in the basic rate of income tax. But I, and everyone else in the political world, would be startled if there were not some tax cuts, however cosmetic and limited in aggregate.

Labour cannot just dismiss the Budget as part of the Tories' pre-election campaign. It is also a test of Mr Brown's claim to be the next Chancellor. He can argue, rightly, that any tax cuts are tiny by comparison with the big tax rises since 1992. But that does not answer the question of what Labour would do in government now. This may, in turn, seem hard on Mr Brown. He has been the most economically responsible Shadow Chancellor for a long time. He has helped to shed some of Labour's old tax-and-spend



image. There have been no wild promises. Instead, he has proposed fiscal and monetary targets at least as tough as the present Government's: the golden rule on public borrowing (only for public investment) and a low inflation objective (reinforced by more open monetary policy decisions). Taken at face value, and since the present budget deficit is well above the golden rule limit, these targets imply that a Labour government would have no room for manoeuvre. In that respect, it makes sense for Mr Brown to delay any detailed announcements on tax and spending until the new year.

But decisions can only be postponed, not avoided. It is all very well for Mr Brown to be prudent about ends, but what about the means? The present Labour stance of ruling out

new commitments is not credible. His speech to the CBI last week set out a coherent strategy, with the government as guarantor of a stable macro-economic framework and partner in encouraging education, training and investment. The State would not be a big spender, but these plans would still cost money, and Labour's answers so far have been inadequate. The early pledges in the pre-manifesto are either to be financed by gimmicky transfers from other programmes, such as the Assisted Places Scheme and attacks on waste, or from one-offs like the windfall levy on privatised utilities.

Labour is likely to go into the election saying there will be no

increase in overall public spending above the totals announced by the Government in the Budget, and that any new commitments will have to be matched by offsetting cuts in other programmes in the same departments. Alistair Darling, the Shadow Chief Secretary, is finding it hard to persuade Shadow spokesmen to come up with other savings, or at least to identify them publicly before the election. That is perhaps inevitable in opposition. But that approach is flawed, even leaving aside the question of how Labour would fulfil its existing aspirations. The Tories have been able to hold down spending to the extent they have only by measures that, for example, limit social security entitlements — and Labour has vigorously opposed these. What would Labour cut instead?

Labour, strangely, may find some comfort in a provocative new paper, *The Prospect for Public Spending*, published this morning by the Social Market Foundation and written by Andrew Tyrie, a former special adviser to Nigel Lawson and John Major in the Treasury. Mr Tyrie argues that a new economic orthodoxy has emerged that constrains public borrowing and spending, and taxes. This reflects a mixture of a change in the political and intellectual climate, the globalisation of markets and the emergence of strong countervailing forces against an ever-larger State.

Mr Tyrie has a point. But he is over-optimistic. Spending can quickly rise as controls are relaxed (as happened in the early 1990s), and there are strong upward pressures on demand for spending as a result of the public's desire for improved services and the social dislocations produced by globalisation. Mr Tyrie himself accepts that it has been very hard for the Tories to achieve even a limited reduction in public spending as a share of national income. That is the rub for Labour. Merely to hold down spending and taxes will require just the kind of squeeze on some programmes that Labour has always been so ready to condemn.

Yesterday Mr Brown showed shrewd flexibility when he accepted the political reality that a Labour government wanting to enter a single currency would first have to win support in a referendum. In his view, he has kept open the option of entering in the first wave.

Mr Brown wants to be more than just Mr Austerity, the Stafford Cripps of the late 1990s. In a review of Edmund Dell's new book, *The Chancellors*, Mr Brown said his model was Lloyd George, for his range and radicalism. A more apt and recent model is Nigel Lawson in his period as the driving force of the Tory programme in the mid 1980s. But first Mr Brown will have to show how Labour would reconcile its domestic ambitions within tight financial limits. He will have to prove he can be a successful Iron Chancellor, as well as Shadow Chancellor.

Zoo story

HE HAS survived the worst that Afghanistan could throw at him in its recent bloody history: the Communists, the Russian invasion, the civil war, and even Taliban's successful capture of Kabul. But now one of the Afghan capital's most respected residents is to be executed or religious grounds. Mangulcha, the 24-year-old wild boar, known as "Fatty" to his friends, is the oldest animal in Kabul Zoo.

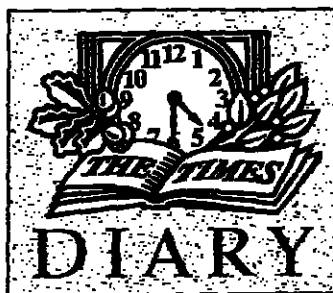
Under Taliban's strict interpretation of Islamic law, the elderly hog is deemed to be forbidden, or "haram", on account of his pork flesh. The rulers of Kabul say that he must be put down. Zoo regulars are appalled. Fatty's keeper, Mohammed, is distraught and PHS wants him saved.

Most of the zoo's 92 species were killed when the institution found itself on the front line in 1992, although a dozen or so animals survived, including an elephant, which managed to make itself inconspicuous. Through the worst offensives, Fatty blithely continued eating vegetables.

In the same year, one cannabi-

stoked Mujahadin fighter jumped into the lion pit to take on Khan, a male lion. Khan quickly dispatched him, but in retaliation the fighter's brother threw a hand-grenade into the pit the next day. Although wounded, Khan and his lioness survived.

"There's a chance that Mangulcha will live like Khan," said Mohammed valiantly this week. "He has seen every regime so far."



and if he survives he'll probably see a few more too.

Tories have been incredulous at the comings and goings of the Governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten, and say he seems to be spending more and more time in Blighty. It's to do with the election strategy, they say. John Major is depending on advice from Patten, the architect of the 1992 election victory. Central Office denies that party chairman Brian Mawhinney's role is being undermined.

Bottle battle

FOR 400 years, the family of Count Alexandre de Lur Saluces have produced the world's most famous and

expensive desert wine. Château d'Yquem. The family business survived the Revolution in 1789 as well as a 19th-century epidemic of plant-louse. Whether the present count will see off a full-blown assault from France's foremost luxury goods group, however, remains to be seen.

The group, LVMH, is keen to buy the château, which produces 5,000-8,000 cases a year of a wine described as "bottled Nirvana" by experts. (A bottle of the 1985 vintage sold recently at auction for £5,280.) The French press suggests that a sale is imminent. At the château yesterday, the speculation was dismissed. "You surprise me," said a manager. "I've heard nothing about it. But then again, I am just an employee."

Hurry, hurry

SATURDAY in Tuscany: the long-awaited wedding of Fiat heir Giovanni Agnelli to the British architect Avery Howe. The towering Archbishop of Pisa, Monsignor Alessandro Plotti, officiated — dwarfing all 30 guests, for he is nearly two metres tall.

The reception, a simple affair, was at the Agnelli villa, Varramista, designed by Michel-

angelo. Presents included a Li-moges dinner service and a facsimile of 12 of Leonardo's codices, valued at £30,000. And after this, the fabulously rich newweds enjoyed a quiet Sunday — before Giovanni Alberto returned to work at his factory this morning.

No mention of a honeymoon.

The arrest last week of the wife of Ian Monk, deputy editor of the Express newspaper, with an allegedly stolen copy of a book on the Duchesse of York, has prompted some busy scribbling from journalists in the paper's newsroom. They have written to Lord Hollick, the proprietor, asking that Monk, an effect-



Wedded to the business

ive operator but not the most popular, be encouraged to make way for new blood.

So what?

WHILE debate rages in the lower-order newspapers about the merits of Michael Jackson's pregnant new wife, Debbie, her father carries on unperturbed in retirement.

At his modest villa in Cyprus yesterday, he appeared unmoved by the fame of his weird son-in-law. "Big deal," said the retired pilot, Gordon Rowe, when asked about Jackson's talent. "I'm a Willie Nelson fan." Rowe wasn't invited to last week's surprise wedding in Sydney, and learnt the news instead from Radio 4. "If she's happy, I'm happy. They've been good friends for a long time."

Kiss me

AN UNLIKELY relationship has been blossoming between Sir Hardy Amies, dressmaker to the Queen, and Annika Rice, bustling-bottomed presenter of *Challenge Annika*, a television programme which even the BBC would admit is light entertainment.

Sir Hardy, 87 and a cult figure,



Sir Hardy and Annika

has taken to using Annika as a model. Most recently, she popped up in Hardy Amies' tweed at the relaunch of his book on the Englishman's suit. "He's a neighbour and friend of mine in the country," she explained at the event. "He's awfully inspiring." The feeling must be mutual, for she left the evening with a free suit under her arm.

P.H.S.



CURRENCY CARDS

Labour's latest bid and Major's last trump

Labour's decision to endorse a referendum before entry to a single currency was inevitable. It is hard to conceive that any future government would have contemplated such a momentous surrender of sovereignty without the popular legitimacy of a referendum.

The previous Labour position — that a general election victory might have been enough — was inconsistent in principle since Labour had already conceded that referendums would be required for other major transfers of power from Westminster. But Labour's decision was also inevitable for reasons other than constitutional consistency. Labour has been playing grandmaster's footstep with the Tories on Europe, determined not to allow the Government to have a clearly more sceptical stance. By offering a referendum, Labour has shrewdly narrowed the ground between the two parties before the general election.

Since his election as Labour leader Mr Blair has conducted a tactical retreat from the positions occupied by his predecessor. John Smith's enthusiasm for a single currency has been replaced by a commitment in principle hedged with doubts about the practical consequences of early entry.

There are honest fears within the Labour leadership that the economy would not be equipped for entry after 18 years of Conservative stewardship. The airing of those fears away from the Shadow Cabinet table have given Labour a more sceptical tinge and unsettled Conservative strategists. Mr Blair, from his equivocal stance during the beef war to his Jesuitical position on the social chapter, has been anxious to limit the capacity of the Tories to paint him as unpatriotic. Conservative campaigners saw an opportunity to do just that last week over the introduction of the 48-hour week. Their efforts on that issue, however, only underlined how successful Mr Blair has been in neutralising our negatives. Support for a referendum was the logical next step.

Labour's announcement presents the Conservatives with a problem and an opportunity. The Prime Minister has so far resisted the temptation to rule out a single currency because he calculates that studied ambiguity during the current round of negotiations in Europe strengthens his hand. As long as Britain's partners think it might enter, then its influence is maximised both in shaping any future single currency and in preventing one. Even if Britain does exercise its opt-out, it could not insulate itself from the unhappy consequences of a botched single currency and it is in the national interest therefore to try to limit the potential for failure.

At some point in the future it will be wise to review the diplomatic value of maintaining ambiguity. A Conservative Prime Minister must consider the advantages of a robust domestic stance which made the re-election of a Tory government more likely. If ministers believe the best defence of British interests abroad is their own continuance in office, then they might consider adopting a policy more likely to keep them there and pledge not to abolish the pound.

Far from dividing his party, John Major could galvanise it. A majority of those likely to form the Tory parliamentary party after the next election are determinedly opposed to a single currency. Speaking last week with the sibilant tones of a Powell, Lord Tebbit prophesied not the splitting but the destruction of the Tory party if it led the country into a single currency.

The Prime Minister knows the number of his own parliamentary party opposed to monetary union. But there is a counterweight — his Chancellor. Mr Major may still calculate that if he were prepared to rule out a single currency in spring then Kenneth Clarke would not dare risk a resignation so near to polling day. It would require a gambler's nerve. But Mr Major has always been at his best when he has made boldness his ally.

RED SECRETS

Russia disappoints all students of Mars

The failure of Russia's mission to Mars to break out of Earth orbit is a serious setback. For the Russians, who spent some \$64 million on a probe that was as ambitious as it was vital to the future of their once vaunted space programme, the failure may prove almost fatal. Russia now has neither the resources, will nor confidence to attempt another Mars mission, and its bankrupt engineers are already blaming the disaster on short cuts and antiquated equipment. For the world's scientists, the failure of the booster rockets to ignite is also a severe blow: the mission would have gone a long way to answering the question whether life could have existed on the Red Planet.

Exploration will now be left to the Americans. Their pioneering work was undertaken 20 years ago by the two Viking modules, which scooped up samples of Martian soil. But although the pictures relayed to Earth were spectacular, many questions remained unanswered. Most important is whether water ever existed on the planet. The Russian mission had two fluted penetrators which would have bored 15ft into the planet's surface to see whether there were any traces of subsurface permafrost.

Funds for further exploration are now tight. Nasa has had to simplify its missions and the two now under way are limited in their quest. The first, launched 12 days ago, will go into orbit next September, taking pictures from 400 miles away that will give a resolution down to one metre; the second, *Pathfinder*, will be launched in three weeks' time and is timed to arrive on July 4. This will deploy a miniature rover on the surface to look at questions ignored by the Vikings: whether, for example, Mars has a magnetic field, or why the planet's surface is so oxidising.

Exploring Mars is not easy because of the immense distance from Earth, ranging from 35 million miles to 150 million at the furthest point of the elliptical orbit. There is a launch window only once every two years, and a spacecraft takes nine months to arrive. Failures, therefore, are costly. The Russians have already suffered two in the 1980s: *Phobos 1* which was intended to explore one of the planet's tiny moons failed because a wrong signal was sent out from ground control; and contact was lost with *Phobos 2* just before it was due to go into orbit.

With the ending of the Cold War, space exploration has ceased to be a scientific and ideological competition. The pattern of all recent missions has been for international, especially Russian-American, co-operation. For all their financial woes and technological backwardness, the Russians still have solid strengths in space research which have proved valuable. Their engineering is simple but sturdy; their missions straightforward and their astronauts highly motivated. But it has been a struggle for Moscow to keep up. The Mars mission was two years behind schedule, and there were worries whether the Russians were properly sterilising all equipment. Now this six-tonne equipment will fall to Earth, adding to Russian embarrassment as nations worry — probably unnecessarily — about falling radioactive plutonium debris. Space exploration demands time, patience and money. The rewards are of huge significance to man's spirit of endeavour. But the Red Planet will now guard its secrets for many years to come.

GOING TO ST IVES

We met a man with seven property deals

Artists are a social species enjoying the company of their own kind. Even as far back as palaeolithic times archaeologists trace a similarity of style. More than 25,000 years ago the daubers of caverns and carvers of figurines were hunkered down discussing how best to carve a bison's hump or chisel the female form from a mammoth's tusk.

Over the centuries our greatest painters have learnt their handcraft at others' feet. Michelangelo was sent as a boy to Florence to be apprenticed to Ghirlandajo. Botticelli learnt a certain sweetness of style from Fra Filippo Lippi's frescoes. The course of modern art history, too, from Manet to Mark Quinn, can be navigated by movements and manifestos.

The sonorous seaside town of St Ives provided safe harbour for one of these groupings. From the turn of the century onwards artists have been lured there by the pellucid quality of the light. By the 1930s there were more than 100 studios in the town, based in the lofts where herring fishermen had once stowed their sails. Art began to replace fishing as the local industry — though perhaps the retired trawlerman Alfred Wallis was not aware of this when he turned his hand from pilchards to painting, thus attracting the attention of one of Britain's more famous creative twosomes, Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth. Moving to St Ives at the start of the Second World War, they formed the centre of a circle

of painters: Patrick Heron, Terry Frost and Peter Lanyon, to name but a few.

Within 20 years St Ives was synonymous with a distinctively British form of abstraction. The crowds began to flock, tripping down to gawp at creation in progress. The artistic temperament proved a contagious — and profitable — disease. Many an amateurish canvas was turned into ready cash. Tourists went home, happy that they had shared in England's little Bohemia. Many a quack artist was tempted to move to St Ives, trailing his kits, cats, sacks and wives along with his dubious talent.

If art has always had the power to move, no less striking is its power to get people moving. Since the opening of the town's Tate Gallery three years ago some 500,000 visitors have made the pilgrimage. And where artistic speculation leads, property speculation follows. St Ives's studios are being demolished and developed. Rents are far beyond the reach of penurious painters.

But it was ever thus. From Montmartre to the Mile End Road painting has ushered in the pantechinons. The avant-garde fires security guards to protect its cultural assets. Post-impersonism may lead to post-Modernism, but in the end it is the postcode that counts. The creative caravan moves on, finding, if not pastures new, then at least urban dereliction in which to settle. We can expect the Moss Side Movement, the Dintfermine Daubers or the Billingham Band.

Heseltine and the Civil Service

From Dr David Richards and Dr Colin Hay

Sir, It is remarkable that Michael Heseltine should have even contemplated ordering senior civil servants to promote Conservative policies (article, "Thwarting the new star chamber", November 14). Throughout the past 17 years of Conservative administration, he has been the one minister who has consistently displayed an interest in, and understanding of, the machinery of government. As such, more than any other of his ministerial colleagues, he should have been aware of the constitutional and broader political implications of "using Whitehall officials to draw up teams of 'cheerleaders' to praise the Government's achievements".

Heseltine's actions would appear to be further indication of a covert form of politicisation of the Civil Service, from a Government which, in the words of Lord Callaghan of Cardiff in 1993, treats Whitehall as its own "private fiefdom". During the 1980s, Margaret Thatcher set out to personalise the top appointments system, overriding the Senior Appointments Selection Committee to hand-pick a number of managerially orientated "candors".

Personalisation of Whitehall has created an environment, that persists to the present day, in which there is little incentive for officials to offer their ministers critical advice. Witness the catalogue of political blunders the *Al Fayed* allegations, Norman Lamont's legal costs, Neil Hamilton's resignation, Jonathan Aiden's Paris hotel bill; and, most significantly, the sale of arm supplies to Iraq. All these might have been prevented by a more independently minded Civil Service.

There still remain prominent defenders of present-day Whitehall practice, foremost amongst them Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, who stated in a letter to us (February 1995) that "this vital characteristic of the Civil Service [impartial independent advice to ministers] has not been eroded". Yet, in the light of recent developments, one can only hope that any incoming Labour government carefully scrutinises the extent to which the core Northcote-Trevelyan principles of impartiality and anonymity have been systematically undermined.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID RICHARDS,
COLIN HAY,
The University of Birmingham,
Department of Political Science
and International Studies,
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT,
November 15.

Single currency

From Mr Llew Smith, MP for Blaenau Gwent (Labour)

Sir, Your leading article of November 11, "Stop the pact", was a timely reminder of the threat to our democratic institutions posed by European monetary union. Among its many effects, a single currency will oblige Britain to become a member of the European Central Bank, the executive of which will be appointed for eight years. No matter what damage they inflict on us, no one will be able to remove them.

The Maastricht treaty states that: "Community institutions... and Governments of member states undertake not to seek to influence the members of the decision-making bodies of the European central bank... in the performance of its tasks."

Democratically elected governments will thus no longer be responsible for the major economic decisions. It will also be illegal for them even to try to influence those unelected and unaccountable bankers.

People will still have the right to vote; but that vote will be a gesture — a charade — because the parties and governments for whom they vote will no longer have powers to rectify the wrongs inflicted on them.

Yours etc,
LLEW SMITH,
House of Commons,
November 13.

Rebuff in Crimea

From Major Colin Robins

Sir, During his recent visit to the Crimea (report, November 6) the Prince of Wales went to the British war memorial on Cathcart's Hill. It was built with British donations, replacing a cemetery established during the Crimean War but destroyed by the Russians in the Cold War and it has been a place of pilgrimage since its opening in 1993.

In September a party on an organised battlefield tour were refused entry to the now padlocked memorial unless they paid a local resident, which they refused to do. It seems unlikely that this outrageous arrangement is unknown to the Sevastopol authorities.

I invite the Royal Navy and the regiments and private individuals who subscribed to the memorial to join me in calling for Foreign Office representations to the authorities. Assurance must be given that this disgraceful behaviour will not be repeated.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN ROBINS (Editor),
The War Correspondent,
Crimean War Research Society,
12 Enville Road,
Bowdon, Cheshire,
November 15.

Assessing employees' health risks

From Dr J. R. B. Cooper

Sir, Several issues are raised by the case of the television company which withdrew a job offer following the advice of an occupational health physician (reports, November 12, 13, 14).

Many companies now dispense altogether with a pre-employment medical examination, since it is not an accurate predictor of either future health or attendance at work; and the introduction next month of the Disability Discrimination Act, giving special rights to disabled people in relation to their employment, will force a further appraisal of the medical's purpose.

An occupational health physician has a dual responsibility: he must evaluate the risks posed to a business by a sick employee as well as those which the workplace poses to the employee's own health. At a time when companies demand more and more

from fewer people, and when work-related illnesses make up one in seven of GP consultations, a correct decision requires the highest medical skills allied to the wisdom of Solomon.

The pre-employment medical should focus less on a "pass or fail" process, and more on a means to determine how best to maximise a person's individual abilities to work in a safe and healthy manner, for the mutual benefit of both employer and employee. Employees are a company's greatest asset, and heeding their health makes good business sense. After all, a good job is one of the best prescriptions for good health.

Yours sincerely,
J. R. B. COOPER
(Senior Medical Adviser, UK),
Unilever,
Unilever House, Blackfriars, EC4,
November 15.

Danger of driver stress and fatigue

From Dr Gary Slapper

Sir, There is now no good reason for allowing those who work on the roads, and those whose employees are drivers, to continue to stand outside the jurisdiction of ordinary safety law (report, "Hours on the road" should be curbed", November 9).

The distribution of the workforce has changed dramatically since our current categories of safety law and inspectors came into existence. Those who work solely or partly on the roads are now one of the largest groups in the workforce.

There are about three million company cars on the roads in England and Wales, travelling about 60 million miles per year. A report from the insurance company, General Accident, suggests that in 1993 there was one death or injury per 41 company cars. The report cites over-demanding schedules for drivers as contributing to fatigue and stress — factors con-

ducive to poor driving and accidents. Annually, there are approximately 600 road deaths involving lorries in England. Research indicates that driver fatigue is implicated in about 20 per cent of cases.

A national survey published in 1995 by the United Road Transport Union found that lorry drivers were often managerially encouraged to work illegally long hours. More than 40 per cent of respondents to the survey had worked over the legal limit of ten hours per day.

Britain's roads are as dangerous in the 1990s as were its mines in the 1950s.

Yours faithfully,
GARY SLAPPER (Director),
Institute of Industrial and Commercial Law,
Staffordshire University,
Leek Road,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire,
November 16.

Young offenders

From the Governor of HM Young Offender Institution, Feltham

Sir, Your report of November 6, "Prisoners in the attic" regime for young offenders", suggests that on one day during his recent inspection HM Chief Inspector of Prisons found 816 "idle" prisoners here.

I totally reject this figure. On no day during the inspection period was there that number of prisoners left in Feltham who would have been eligible for purposeful activities, once discharges to court and transfers to other prisons had taken place.

On an average day at least 200 prisoners are engaged in education, gym or the key working functions in any establishment of this type. More than half our population is on remand or on trial, and whilst I firmly believe that we should encourage such pris-

oners to participate in a range of purposeful activity, they are not required by law to do so.

The multipurpose role of this establishment, combined with population pressures, make it difficult but not impossible for us to provide many of our prisoners with as much constructive activity as I would wish. Nevertheless, my staff work extraordinarily hard to provide the young men committed to our care with as positive a regime as is possible within these constraints and our current resources.

I look forward to receiving the inspector's report. It will, I'm sure, place all of this into its proper context and offer useful signposts for taking Feltham even further forward.

Yours faithfully,
IVOR WARD, Governor,
HM Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre,
Bedfont Road, Feltham, Middlesex.

Pupils as 'sheperds'

From the Chairman Designate of the General Osteopathic Council

Sir, I support very much the views reflected in your report of November 8, "Modern schools put heavy load on pupils' shoulders", on schoolchildren being turned into little sheperds.

Research shows a much higher than expected incidence of back pain among schoolchildren. My fear is that damage to the back during the formative years from the asymmetric loading of the spine with heavy school bags, combined with the effect of a more sedentary lifestyle which children now lead, will contribute to an epidemic of chronic back pain as today's youth approaches middle life.

Focused health issues, such as smoking and drug abuse, are tackled in schools. I now urge schools to present self-care in a more holistic way, to include an early appreciation of how the body's framework functions and the need both for exercise and good posture.

The osteopathic profession would

be glad to assist in any such initiative. It is only by increasing awareness that we will stem the tide of disabling musculo-skeletal disorders estimated, in 1993, to have cost this country 81 million working days, at a total loss to the nation of £5.6 billion in NHS costs, lost production and DSS benefits.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON FIELDING,
Chairman Designate,
The General Osteopathic Council,
62 Bowyer Mount Road,
Malden, Kent,
November 9.

From Mr Philip J. Barratt

Sir, Your report on the effects of heavy school bags on the health of children sheds no light on the mystery, observed by all teachers, that the smallest child always has the largest and heaviest bag.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP J. BARRATT,
Croft View, 16 Finkle Street,
St Bees, Cumbria,
November 9.

Caning in schools

From Mr Alexander Hill-Smith

Sir, The Government has decided to allow a free vote on the issue of caning in schools (report, November 9). It is to be hoped that its position under the European Convention on Human Rights will be considered.

Corporal punishment was abolished in state schools by Section 47, Education (No 2) Act 1986 precisely because of adverse ruling by the European Commission of Human Rights and Court of Human Rights. In the latter case of *Costello-Roberts v UK* (1993) the Court, whilst finding by a five to four majority that on the facts use of the slipper did not contravene the Convention, said that it did "not wish to be taken to approve in any way the retention of corporal punishment as part of the disciplinary regime in a school".

If caning is permitted in schools, the Court of Human Rights is likely to find that this is in breach of the Convention and order that the Government pay compensation to the caned.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER HILL-SMITH,
12 Kings Bench Walk,
Temple, E.C.4,
November 9.

From the Head of the St Thomas the Apostle College

Sir, As Head of an all-boys inner-city school I used to be proud of our tradition of fair discipline, backed up by sensible use of the cane. When we were forced to finally stop caning by law we were, I believe, the last 11th school to do so.

Our approach since that time has been one of care and genuine pastoral support, backed up by parents. We now achieve outstanding GCSE results, have relatively few exclusions and, with a healthy ethnic mix, all enjoy a happy and caring atmosphere.

Our boys today are, for whatever reasons, more tolerant, more caring and less aggressive than previous pupils. I am not a member of the anti-caning brigade but would see the reintroduction of the cane in our school as a sad step back into the past.

Yours sincerely,
F. E. TOPE, Head,
The St Thomas the Apostle College,
Hollydale Road, Nunhead, SE15,
November 11.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Defence of system for export of art

From the Chairman of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art

Sir, Mr John Walsh, Director of the Getty Museum in California, attacks the "bent" UK system for controlling the export of works of art, stating that "it serves nobody but a few opportunistic quasi-collectors" (Arts, October 29; see also letter, November 5). May I explain why he is wrong.

Less than 1 per cent of applications for exporting works of art come before the Reviewing Committee — only 27 applications last year. If the committee considers the object to be of outstanding historic, aesthetic or scholarly importance they recommend the Secretary of State for National Heritage to defer a licence, normally for no more than six months, to give UK institutions an opportunity to purchase the object at the equivalent price.

Of the 22 objects, valued at £28.1 million, whose licences were deferred last year, nine valued at £5.2 million were purchased by museums and galleries across the country for the enjoyment of large numbers of British people and visitors.

Since January 1993 the Getty has purchased from Britain a Turner (value £11 million), a Fra Bartolommeo from Fife (£14 million), a Cologne School picture (£2.6 million), paintings by Giambologna (£470,500), Correggio (£3.6 million), Rembrandt (£4.8 million) and Giulio Romano (£1.7 million) and drawings by Michelangelo (£4.5 million) and David Wilkie (£75,000).

I very much doubt that Mr Walsh or his curators would have had the opportunity to find so many outstanding works for sale in other Western European countries or, if he did, whether he would have been allowed to export them to Malibu.

The Reviewing Committee introduced in 1990 have enabled three works of art of national importance — a George I barometer (£275,000) and paintings by Johann Liss (£1 million) and J. F. de Troy (£4.5 million) — to be retained in this country by private individuals, giving public institutions a second chance to purchase them in the event of a further export application.

The Secretary of State for National Heritage issued a consultation paper earlier this year, setting out the arguments for or against imposing conditions on such purchases and sought views. When Virginia Bottomley publishes her conclusions, I hope that the Getty Museum will react in a similarly balanced way.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN GUINNESS, Chairman,
Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art,
Department of National Heritage,
24 Cockspur Street, SW1,
November 13.

Citizens' juries

From the Leader of Lewisham Council

Sir, Your reports on citizens' juries (November 11) failed to do justice both to the concept and to the experimental use of such a jury by this borough.

The problem of drugs in our cities and elsewhere is very real and the Lewisham jury produced some challenging ideas and practical solutions. The education programme it recommended has, in fact, been accepted by the council with the setting up of a specialist drugs education team for schools.

Professionals and politicians do not have all the answers, and may well have a vested interest in pursuing certain policies at the expense of others. Genuinely representative citizen juries, which receive balanced and expert evidence, can play a valuable role in testing established ideas and policies. This is all the more important when so many public institutions are unelected and unaccountable.

Yours faithfully,
JIM MALLORY,
Leader, Lewisham Council,
Lewisham Town Hall,
Lewisham, SE6 4RU.

War poetry

From Mr Douglas Hurd, CH, MP for Witney (Conservative)

Sir, I believe that Kevin Harrison (letter, November 14) has misread Philip Larkin's intention in the poem about Remembrance Sunday. Larkin was criticising not the ceremony, but the pompous, subsidised professor who had forgotten what his fellow citizens were remembering. The satirical title, *Naturally the Foundation will Bear Your Expenses*, surely proves the point.

Yours truly,
DOUGLAS HURD,
House of Commons,
November 14.

Cheek to cheek

From Mr John R. Sharp

Sir, Rome's Cine Blu is half a century late in introducing pairs of "love seats" (Diary, November 14). During the war years my wife-to-be and I snuggled in seats without an intervening arm in the Tower Cinema in Hull, to name but one. Upholstered in blue velvet, no less.

Yours nostalgically,
JOHN R. SHARP,
55 Twining Brook Road,
Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire,
November 14.

OBITUARIES

Alger Hiss, the former American diplomat convicted of perjury in 1950, died in New York on November 15 aged 92. He was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on November 11, 1904.

If constant denial of guilt over the course of nearly five decades could be regarded as proof of innocence, then Alger Hiss would have been exonerated long ago. Instead, the 1950 conviction of the man, who played a leading role in the formation of the United Nations, on a charge that he had lied to a grand jury about his association with a self-confessed Communist, remained the source of intense and divisive controversy. The subject of several dozen books — including *A Generation on Trial* (1950) by Alistair Cooke — a documentary film, a TV mini-series, innumerable articles and interminable lawsuits, the Hiss case remains one of the defining episodes of modern American politics.

Broadly, like Melinda Maclean before her flight to Moscow in 1952, Hiss had — initially at least — the whole weight of establishment opinion on his side. It was Dean Acheson who famously (and foolishly) remarked on the day of his conviction "I do not intend to turn my back on Alger Hiss" — and in saying that the then Secretary of State was merely reflecting the predominant reaction of upper-crust America. It was the groundlings — led by Senator Joe McCarthy — who detected in the Hiss case all the elements of what was wrong with an effete America — and who used the fall of this Ivy League icon as the basis of their campaign against "the enemy within".

In a sense, Hiss himself was lucky. The real accusation against him was that he had acted as a spy for the Soviet Union in the 1930s and, had he been tried on that charge in the red-baiting atmosphere of the late 1940s and early 1950s, he might well have suffered the same fate as Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. But by the time that his accuser, Whitaker Chambers, testified before the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1948, the statute of limitations on espionage had run out. Instead of risking the sanction for a capital offence, Hiss served under four years for perjury.

Alger Hiss was the fourth of five children of a dry goods company executive. He had been brought up in genteel poverty by his mother and an unmarried aunt after his father committed suicide while he was still only two. He was an outstanding scholar at Johns Hopkins University, gained his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1929, and — at the instigation of Professor Felix Frankfurter

of Harvard — was appointed to the coveted position of clerk to Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. In 1933, after a two-year spell in private practice, Hiss — again, at the suggestion of Frankfurter — joined the Roosevelt Administration and worked in various capacities on New Deal projects, finally becoming director of the new Office of Special Political Affairs. In this role he served as executive secretary of the Dumbarton Oaks conference which laid the foundations of the United Nations, and accompanied President Roosevelt to the Yalta Conference in 1945.

When the UN met for the first time in San Francisco later that year, Hiss was elected as temporary Secretary-General and had the task of carrying the UN Charter to President Truman. With the Charter ratified by the Senate, he then travelled to London as principal adviser to the US delegation for the first session of the General Assembly in Central Hall, Westminster, in 1946.

Until that point it had been, by any measure, a distinguished and illustrious career. It had never, though, been any secret that Hiss's political sympathies were left-of-centre, but this proved no impediment at the time, and on leaving the State Department late in 1946 he went on to become president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace — a blue riband organisation committed to supporting projects which might contribute to the eventual elimination of war, he tried to steer the endowment towards support of the UN and its objectives.

But on August 3, 1948, the turn of events began which brought Hiss down. Whitaker Chambers, an ex-Communist who was then a senior editor of *Time* magazine, appeared before the House Un-American Activities Committee and named Hiss, together with several other former New Deal officials, as members of an underground Communist organisation in Washington during the 1930s.

Two days later Hiss appeared voluntarily before the committee and vehemently denied the accusation. The two men were brought together, and in a televised confrontation Chambers accused Hiss of lying, while Hiss denigrated Chambers as a "self-confessed liar, spy and traitor". He dared Chambers to repeat his charges outside the committee and, when he did, sued for slander, claiming damages of \$75,000.

As with Oscar Wilde, this may have been a mistake. During the pre-trial discovery process, Chambers escalated his charge to one of active espionage and produced a cache of retyped classified State Department documents which, he claimed, Hiss had given him in 1938. He



Alger Hiss and his first wife, Priscilla, leaving the New York court in 1950

also led committee members to a farm in Maryland, where he dramatically produced five rolls of microfilm, two of which Chambers had hidden in a hollowed-out pumpkin. Inevitably, they became known as the "Pumpkin Papers".

It was Hiss's misfortune at this point that his fate became entwined with the political ambitions of a then little-known Republican congressman from California named Richard M. Nixon. Nixon saw to it that the discovery of the Pumpkin Papers got maximum publicity, and proceeded to press the case against Hiss with considerable zeal. Although Presi-

dent Truman attacked the committee's investigation as "a red herring", Nixon was seeking a reputation as the nemesis of communist subversion and escalated his campaign. The Hiss case became the launching pad for his election to the Senate in 1950, the vice-presidency in 1952, and the Republican presidential nomination in 1960.

Hiss, meanwhile, had been summoned to appear before a grand jury in New York. He again denied seeing Chambers after January 1937 and rejected the accusation that he had passed documents to him. The grand jury promptly indicted

Hiss on two charges of perjury. When the case came to trial on May 31, 1949, Hiss's defence lawyers set out to assassinate the character of Whitaker Chambers. This was not difficult. Rumbled, fat and erratic, Chambers confessed under cross-examination to lying frequently in the past. He contrasted poorly with the elegant, patrician Hiss. After five weeks the trial ended with the jury split eight-to-four in favour of conviction.

The second trial lasted two months, with the prosecution producing a new witness who claimed to have known Hiss as a Communist in the 1930s. This time the jury brought in a guilty verdict and Hiss was sentenced to five years in jail. His appeals failed, the Supreme Court refused to hear the case, and Hiss was taken to prison in March 1951.

Disbarred from law practice, Hiss worked for a time for a manufacturer of women's hair accessories after his release 44 months later, then spent 15 years as an office supplies salesman. But in 1975, with Richard Nixon in disgrace and Whitaker Chambers dead, Hiss sought reinstatement to the Bar — he had already secured his right to a State Department pension — and won his case in the Massachusetts Supreme Court. In the wake of Watergate, this was probably the highpoint of his long struggle for rehabilitation. Hiss, now 70 years old, then announced that he was suing for FBI documents under the Freedom of Information Act, which he claimed would prove his innocence. Documents already released, he said, cast doubt on the authenticity of a typewriter which had been a key item of evidence at his trial.

But Hiss was not the only person interested in these documents. The historian Allen Weinstein also obtained them, and in 1978 he produced *Perjury*, a 674-page book on the case spiced with interviews with Soviet bloc officials, which has been hailed as the definitive work on the affair. Weinstein's conclusion, after examining the case in enormous detail, was that Hiss was, indeed, guilty as charged. Most reviewers were impressed, including such members of the liberal Establishment as J. K. Galbraith and Arthur Schlesinger Jr. But Hiss's own prompt reaction was to file a petition with the Federal District Court in New York asking that his conviction be overturned. His own book on the subject, *In the Court of Public Opinion*, had been published in 1957.

Four years later, Hiss's appeal was finally rejected, but still the case would not go away. In 1984 President Reagan made a posthumous award of the Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honour, to Whitaker Chambers whose own

bestseller about the case was called *Witness* (1952) and who had died as long ago as 1961. And in 1986, over the protests of the National Parks Service, the Reagan Administration accorded National Historic Landmark status to the farm where the Pumpkin Papers were discovered.

Hiss continued to protest his innocence at every available opportunity, and in 1992 gained support from General Dmitri Volkogonov, chairman of Russia's military intelligence archives, who had examined the KGB files and declared that allegations of espionage against Hiss were "completely groundless". Hiss's supporters were jubilant. His opponents argued that the general had not looked hard enough, or that the relevant documents had been destroyed.

They produced their own witness from behind the former Iron Curtain the following year: a Hungarian researcher who claimed to have uncovered evidence of Hiss's guilt in the confessions of a deceased American spy, Donald Field. But probably most damaging to the Hiss campaign were a clutch of intercepted cables, released earlier this year by the National Security Agency, which identified a senior State Department official — and one who had attended the Yalta Conference — as a Soviet agent who worked under the codename of "Ales". This same Ales, it was revealed, had also flown to Moscow immediately after the Yalta Conference. An NSA note on one of the cables suggested that Ales was "probably Alger Hiss".

By this time Hiss, more than 90 years old and blind, was too old and feeble to carry on the fight. His son Tony, a former writer on the *New Yorker*, had done most of the years to defend his father's reputation but on this occasion Hiss himself issued a statement. In it he denied that the name Ales meant anything to him but, perhaps more compromisingly, admitted that he had, indeed, visited Moscow in the immediate aftermath of the Yalta three-power meeting — adding, none too persuasively, that he had done so only for a night (and with a view mainly to looking at the city's subway system). Whatever else it did, this unforeseen postscript to his long battle to clear his name hardly seemed to strengthen his claim to be the American Dreyfus — with the *New Republic* commenting last April on "Hiss's documented guilt".

Alger Hiss's first wife, Priscilla, for whom some of his own original lawyers suspected he was chivalrously covering up, died in 1984. In addition to his son Tony, he is survived by his second wife Isabel and a stepson.

PROFESSOR PETER FOWLER

Peter Fowler, FRS, Professor of Physics at the University of Bristol, 1964-88, died on November 8 aged 73. He was born on February 27, 1923.

A GRANDSON of Ernest Rutherford, the Nobel Prize-winning scientist who discovered the atomic nucleus, and the son of the eminent theoretical physicist Sir Ralph Fowler, FRS, Peter Fowler followed in the family tradition to become one of the most outstanding physicists of his generation. His principal area of research was elementary particles and cosmic rays and it was he who discovered the nuclei of the elements heavier than iron, up to and including uranium, in the primary cosmic rays bombarding the Earth's upper atmosphere. But among other areas of seminal research he also helped to pioneer the measurement of jet turbine blade temperatures and contributed to the field of cancer therapy using particle beams. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1964 and awarded the Hughes Medal in 1974.

Peter Howard Fowler began to study physics at Bristol University, where he was to remain for the rest of his career. However, his studies there as an undergraduate were interrupted by the outbreak of war and it was as a radar officer in the RAF that Fowler made his initial experiments with physics. He found a solution to the problem of German jamming of the radio signals used to navigate RAF bombers when, using a British navigation transmitter as a receiver, he located the Ger-

man jamming transmitter which was then subsequently destroyed in a bombing raid. Goering, unable to believe that the British could have deduced the location of the transmitter so soon after it had been switched on, reputedly suspected a security leak and demanded a court martial.

After graduation, Fowler became a research student under Professor C. F. Powell at Bristol. It was the late 1940s, a period full of exciting discoveries in the world of British physics, not least of these the discovery in the cosmic rays of the important elementary particle, the pi-meson.

Fowler's early research was spent in the study of elementary particles created naturally by interactions of cosmic rays in the upper atmosphere of the Earth. Those early days also saw the development at Bristol of high altitude balloons which lifted payloads of nuclear emulsion films high enough to record the cosmic ray interactions. In Britain the balloons were made in the Bristol laboratory and launched from various sites near by. Later they were to be launched from Cardington in Bedfordshire where they would reach an altitude of some 10,000 ft, drifting on the upper winds in a westerly direction before releasing the payload which made a controlled descent by parachute.

This research established much of our early knowledge of particle physics. Fowler was co-author with C. F. Powell and D. H. Perkins in 1959 of the substantial treatise *The Detection of Elementary Particles by the Photographic Method*, a superb historical textbook.



It was the further development of high altitude balloons capable of reaching 130,000 ft that led Fowler to discover the so-called ultra-heavy nuclei in the primary cosmic rays in 1966. It was realised that the relative abundance of these nuclei could be used to study the nucleosynthesis mechanisms by which the elements are formed in the galaxy. However, such nuclei in the cosmic rays were rare and so there followed a long series of experiments to obtain improved statistics, using balloons up to 50 million cubic feet in volume carrying newly developed plastic detectors. These were mainly launched over the American Midwest,

but the series included the first transatlantic high-altitude balloon flight from Sicily to Kentucky in 1975.

In his pursuit of more sophisticated detectors of heavy nuclei, Fowler then developed a whole series of instruments based on gas scintillators. The second in this series was launched on the UK Ariel VI satellite in 1979. The sophistication of these detectors typified the intellect and ability of Fowler as an experimental physicist.

An important aspect of his remarkable ability was his photographic memory and dexterity in mental arithmetic; these, together with his understanding of physics, proved a

powerful combination. Where lesser physicists would take hours, he would solve a complex problem quickly, often thinking aloud in front of his colleagues.

Fowler used his skills to solve many problems. The proposal to build small nuclear accelerators to generate pi-mesons as a kind of exploding bullet for the treatment of cancer, though never developed in practice, was in many ways the forerunner of modern-day ideas on targeted radiotherapy — delivering radiation to the site of the tumour, but not to surrounding healthy tissue.

Later in his career he developed the use of thermal neutron beams as a radiographic tool to measure the temperature of aircraft engine turbine blades in situ. The technique has been proposed as a practical method of screening for explosives in passenger luggage at airports. At the time of his death, he was using neutron beams for calibrating thermocouples used to measure temperatures in rock samples artificially subjected to extremely high pressures in an effort to mimic geological conditions inside the Earth's crust.

In retirement Fowler continued to go into the research laboratory. His encyclopaedic knowledge of nuclear physics coupled with a vigour, warmth and contagious enthusiasm helped many a student. His five Gaelic running-mates, were neck-and-neck for the last place in the three-seat constituency. The votes were counted and recounted for three days. The whole county waited for the news. Naughten lost the seat by one vote.

Peter Fowler is survived by his wife Rosemary, a former fellow research student whom he married in 1949, and by their three daughters.

SENATOR LIAM NAUGHTEN

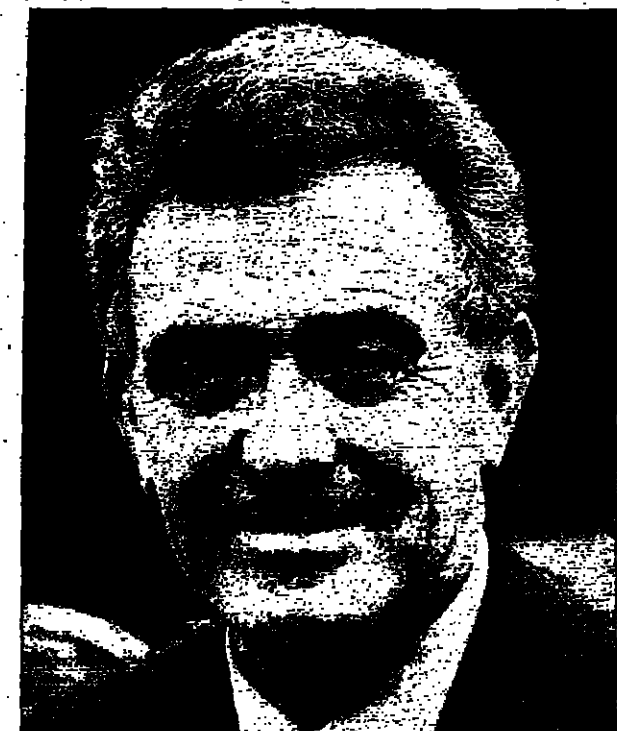
Senator Liam Naughten, chairman of the Irish Senate, died in a car accident on November 16 aged 52. He was born on May 31, 1944.

AS THE cathairleach, or chairman, of the Upper House of the Irish Parliament, Liam Naughten was one of the gentlemen of Irish politics. He was a farmer by profession, working with cattle and sheep on his 120-acre farm in Co. Roscommon. But he became involved in local politics, driven by a sense of duty and a desire to improve the conditions of people around him.

He was elected to the Seanad in 1981 and gained a seat in the Dail, or House of Representatives, the following year. His achievements in politics seldom made the headlines but they were felt in Co. Roscommon and in the West of Ireland.

He had two main areas of interest — farming and health. He was a reliable ally for the farmers, particularly those with smallholdings in the West of Ireland who needed people to go to Dublin to fight their cause. He was chairman of the Western Health Board and particularly involved in improving the conditions of the mentally disabled. His youngest daughter, Aine, was mentally handicapped.

He lost his Dail seat in 1989 in a bitter battle that became legend. He and John Connor, his Fine Gael running-mate, were neck-and-neck for the last place in the three-seat constituency. The votes were counted and recounted for three days. The whole county waited for the news. Naughten lost the seat by one vote.



But, in keeping with Naughten's gentle but resilient personality, the two men did not remain enemies for long. He was known for his friendship across all the political divides and was close to John Bruton, the present Taoiseach. He was loved for his warmth and modesty by people from all walks of life. He listened carefully and understood everybody's point of view.

He was re-elected to the Seanad in 1989 by county councils around Ireland. He sat on the agriculture panel and became deputy chairman of the body almost immediately. He took over the chairmanship

last year following the death of Sean Fallon, his friend and neighbour from Flanna Fall, the other side of Irish politics. His election to cathairleach was a unanimous one.

His greatest political moment came in November 1995 when President Clinton visited Ireland. Naughten formally thanked the President for addressing both Houses of the Oireachtas or Irish Parliament. It was a moment in Irish history that, understandably, made the Roscommon farmer very proud.

Naughten is survived by his wife Mary, together with their six sons and two daughters.

Church appointments

Latest appointments include
The Rev James Baker, Team Rector, Whitehaven and Rural Dean of Calder (Carlisle), to be also an Honorary Canon of Carlisle Cathedral.
The Rev John Cooper, Vicar, St. Cuthbert, Darwen with St. Stephen, Toxteth (Blackburn), to be Vicar, St. Michael and All Angels with St. Edmund, Northampton (Peterborough).
The Rev Stephen Davis, Curate, Christ Church, Luton, Chatham, to be Vicar, Colham with Luddesdown and Dole (Rochester).
The Rev Alan Davis, Priest-in-charge, St. Cuthbert with St. Mary, Carlisle, Diocesan Communications Officer, and Archdeacon-designate of West Cumberland (Carlisle), to be also an Honorary Canon of Carlisle Cathedral.
The Rev John Higgins, Diocesan Social Responsibility Officer and Assistant Priest, Brampton, Caste Carrock, Cumrew and Farham (Carlisle), to be also an Honorary

Canon of Carlisle Cathedral.
The Rev Peter Holmes, Vicar, St. Peter, Nurbith, to be also Rural Dean of Kingston (Southwark).
The Rev Patrick McKee, Curate, Oakham with Hambleton and Egleston and Braunston with Brooks, to be Vicar, Ryhall with Evesden and Carby (Peterborough).
The Rev Colin Penfold, Vicar, Cononley with Bradley, to be Priest-in-charge, St. Paul, Shipley (Bradford).
The Rev Dr Susan Penfold, Honorary Curate, Conyest Church with Bradley, to be Assistant Curate (NSM).
St. Paul, and continue as Associate Director of Ordinands and a Director of Studies for Readers (Bradford).
The Rev Stephen Pye, Priest-in-charge, Haydon with Cumwhitton, to be also Rural Dean of Brampton (Carlisle).
The Rev Matthew Read, Assistant Curate, St. Saviour's, Oxtan (Cheshire), to be Team Vicar, Great Marlow Team Ministry with

responsibility for Marlow Bonom (Oxford).
The Rev Valerie Rushon, Associate Minister, St. Paul's, Sokeingford (Kent), to be Team Vicar, Watling Valley Team Ministry (Oxford).
The Rev Brian Shippsides, Chaplain to the University of North London (London), to be Priest-in-charge, Forest Gate, St. Edmund and Priest-in-charge, Forest Gate, All Saints (Chelmsford).
The Rev Alan Smith, Rector, Rushden St. Mary and Rushden St. Peter with Newton Bromswold, to be Vicar, Wollaston with Strixton (Peterborough).
The Rev Jeremy Tyndall, Team Vicar, St. Nicholas, Halewood (Liverpool), to be Priest-in-charge, St. Edmund, Yardley (Birmingham).
The Rev Roy Woodhams, Assistant Curate, St. Leonard with St. Richard, Deal (Canterbury), to be Priest-in-charge, united benefice of Cherbury (Oxford).

Resignations and retirements
The Rev Cynthia Fretwell, Chaplain to Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Montague Hospital Trust, Doncaster (Sheffield), retired October 4 for health reasons.
Canon Brian Matthews, Chaplain, St. Michael's, Beaulieu-sur-Mer, France (Europe), to retire December 31.
The Rev Gillian Swallow, Vicar, Ripponden with Richworth and Barksland with West Scammonden (Wakefield), to take early retirement on grounds of ill health as from January 31.
Canon Douglas Ward-Boddington, Chaplain, St. James, Porto, Portugal (Europe), to retire February 28.

Other appointments
Dr Christina Baxter, Dean of St. John's College, Nottingham, and David Mead, Bursar of Coventry Cathedral, to be also Canons Theologian at Coventry Cathedral.

LEAGUE FOOTBALL SCANDAL CORINTHIAN MATCH BANNED

GATE-MONEY OR SPORT?

The Association Football match which was to have been played at the Crystal Palace this evening between the Corinthians and Plymouth Argyle will not take place. Plymouth Argyle have been ordered by the Football League to scratch the match. Mr G.N. Foster, the famous player and hon. secretary of the Corinthians Football Club, has forwarded to us the correspondence which we give below, which explains exactly what has happened.

On Wednesday, November 15, the following wire was received from Plymouth Argyle: "Regret must cancel match arranged for Saturday owing to Football League ruling." — Jack, Argyle.

The following reply was sent on November 15: "Cannot accept cancellation of Saturday's match incurring great inconvenience and annoyance without full details and explanation of League ruling for our full consideration. Await immediate reply. Foster, Corinthians."

The following wire was received on Thursday, November 16, from Plymouth Argyle: —

ON THIS DAY

November 18, 1922

A leading article concluded: "The Club presumably feared that the Corinthians match (Crystal Palace) would be the great attraction of the day... More selfish or more unsportsmanlike conduct it would be difficult to conceive."

Regret delay being away. I wrote you to Bechenham yesterday explaining that Palace Club protested against our playing match their proximity and League instructed cancellation. We have no option. Reply, — Jack, Argyle.

The following reply was sent on the evening of Thursday, November 16: "Your wire received. Must hold you to your engagement play Palace Saturday. — Foster, Corinthians."

The final wire was received from Plymouth on Friday, November 17: "Wire received, but regret definitely impossible play to-morrow. — Robert Jack."

The following is an extract from the letter referred to, explaining the reason for the cancellation: — "I very much regret having had to write you to-day cancelling Saturday's match. I was very disappointed — and no doubt my directors, too — when we heard that Crystal Palace Club protested against the game being played in their district."

I got on the telephone to Mr Charnley, the Football League Secretary, and he informed me that the League Management Committee supported Crystal Palace Club's protest, and I had therefore no option but to write you cancelling this fixture. We were very anxious to have fixtures with your team, and I hope that this cancellation will not affect the possibility of your visiting Plymouth on December 2, and perhaps you may be able to fix up a game with us in London at some future date — even on, say, a Monday late in the season."

The Football League stated yesterday that the reason for their action was that "such a match would affect materially the game at the match between the Crystal Palace and Barnsley, at Selhurst, which is less than two miles from the Crystal Palace."

We deal with this extraordinary action of the Management Committee of the Football League in a leading article to-day.

204/11/150

TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

JOYS OF SUMMER

Full guide to the 1997 cricket fixtures PAGES 38, 39

GREATEST GOALS

David Miller selects a magic moment from the Matthews final PAGE 32

COME TO THE DANCE

Take your first steps as quick as you can. Sport for All PAGE 40

Tim Henman is best of British again PAGE 26

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY NOVEMBER 18 1996

GRAHAM CHADWICK/ALLOSPORT



Juninho, of Middlesbrough, leaves several defenders floundering as he pushes for an equaliser against Derby at the Baseball Ground yesterday

Robson needs new foreign policy

Derby County 2
Middlesbrough 1

By RICHARD HOBSON

AS HE watched this game from the stand, in conditions hugely contrasting to the beachy heat of Rio de Janeiro, Emerson must have wondered if he could have managed somehow to delay his much-discussed return to Middlesbrough from Brazil even longer.

After a series of delays, he arrived in England on Saturday to find Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, in a compassionate and forgiving mood. The pair will meet early this week to discuss the player's future amid reports that Emerson's girlfriend has refused steadfastly to return to the North East. "We are going to help him as much as we can," Robson said before the game. "We want to make things as comfortable as we can in Middlesbrough."

Robson also confirmed his interest in Paul Ince, the Internazionale midfielder player, but declined to be questioned about suggestions that Fabrizio Ravanelli, the Italian striker whom he bought from Juventus for £7 million in the summer, is being lined up for a move to Manchester United for significantly more. The pair met on Saturday night, and Ravanelli is known to be frustrated at Middlesbrough's lack of progress.

How, though, would Middlesbrough cope without him? His goal here was his fourteenth of the season in all games, but, despite his best efforts, Middlesbrough have now taken just two points from their past seven matches. Ravanelli also volleyed against the crossbar, shot into the side netting and forced Hault to tip a teasing, dipping, 25-yard free kick to safety.

Given that Mikkel Beck, too, hit the upright and that Hault parried away shots from Juninho and Mustoe, it is clear that Middles-

BOTTOM SIX

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	13	3	4	6	18	23	13
Sunderland	13	3	4	6	9	16	13
Leeds United	13	4	1	8	11	20	13
Coventry	13	1	7	5	7	17	10
Blackburn	13	1	5	7	11	17	8
Nottingham For	12	1	5	6	10	20	8

brough, without Emerson, who was suspended, had enough chances to take something from this game. Robson felt that they should have been awarded "three or four" penalties. That might have been an exaggeration, but, in one case at least, where Rowett clearly tripped Beck, they were unfortunate.

"At least the lads put in a lot of effort, and I was very encouraged by the performance," Robson said. "They answered a lot of questions some people have been asking."

When tension mounts, there are few more exciting places to watch football than the Baseball Ground.

However, next August, Derby will move to Pride Park, two miles away, and yesterday, Lionel Pickering, the chairman, unveiled the foundation stone at the new ground.

Slate-grey skies and driving rain could not camouflage an air of triumphalism about the ceremony, and for two thirds of the game, that same confidence was recognisable among the Derby players.

"Let us return to the old ground and beat Middlesbrough," Igor Stimac, Derby's Croatia international, who is suspended, implored during a brief but stirring speech at the ceremony. He was not disappointed and Derby moved up to tenth place in the FA Carling Premiership.

McCreath had seen a shot headed off the line before Derby took the lead in the fourteenth minute. Ward took the ball up the right, but pulled his low centre behind Sturridge. No matter. Asanovic followed in, checked his stride, and squeezed a shot under Walsh.

Nobody was more influential in midfield than Asanovic, Derby's other Croatia international, who received a standing ovation on being replaced seven minutes from the end. He also had a considerable input into the second goal in the 46th minute. Brought down by Cox, he took the free kick himself from wide on the right and Vickers, under pressure from Ward, turned the ball into his own net.

Derby lost much of their potency as the second half developed and a sense of urgency inspired Middlesbrough. Middlesbrough pulled back a goal in the 72nd minute when Ravanelli, unopposed, headed in a cross by Fleming. They deserved more, but it was not to be.

Derby County (3-5-2): R. Hault, D. Yates, P. McCraith, G. Rowett, J. Latham, G. Dally (sub), C. Bentley, P. Hault, A. Asanovic (sub), P. Simpson, G. S. Fyfe, C. Powell, A. Ward, D. Sturridge (sub), R. Williams, 75.
MIDDLESBROUGH (4-3-3): G. Walsh, N. Cox, S. Vickers, D. Whyte, C. Fleming, C. Hignett, R. Mustoe, A. Moore (sub), M. Summerbell, 75) — Juninho, F. Ravanelli, M. Beck, P. Duffin

Time withers Teesside's expectation

Harry Pearson on why hardened fans are unmoved by the Riverside revolution

It is easy to date some football supporters by the team that they support. People who follow a side to which they owe no regional or family loyalty have generally attached themselves to a club that was victorious or exciting during their immediate pre-teenage years. A man born and brought up in Peterborough who follows Leeds United is usually in his mid-thirties. A woman from Harlepool with a fondness for Queens Park Rangers is around 28.

Last week, Middlesbrough Football Club was placed sixteenth in *Elle's* British Hip 100. "A dose of Latin style for the long winter nights ahead," the fashion magazine frothed. "The beautiful game comes to Teesside." For those of us who grew up watching Willie Whigham, the Boro goalkeeper, the concept of "the beautiful game" has been a difficult one to grasp. The custodian from Falkirk had many fine qualities, but the fact is that placing a picture of him on the mantelpiece remains the only sure means of keeping a toddler away from the fire.

Elle is right, though. In the past 18 months, and against all expectation, Middlesbrough have been transformed. It began with the arrival of Bryan Robson as manager, but really gathered pace with the move to the Riverside Stadium. Though there was sadness at leaving Ayresome Park, too, the old ground had brought the club little luck and even fewer honours. The Riverside is a fine ground and the vast majority of Middlesbrough supporters love it.

The sense of new beginning rekindled Teesside's love of football. Attendances are up across the country, but Middlesbrough's are the only ones that have risen by close to 50 per cent. The club has not attracted this kind of support since the early Fifties. With the signing of Juninho, the Brazilian footballer of the year, things went into a higher gear. Branco, Emerson and Ravanelli followed. For older supporters, the speed and thoroughness of the metamorphosis has been bamboozling.

Nowadays, ten and 11-year olds all over England are wearing Middlesbrough shirts. Boro have become one of those teams exotic, exciting and generally sexy enough to attract children from across the land. If recent reports of unrest among Boro's foreign

players are accurate, however, this may prove to be a very narrow intake. Indeed, in years to come, the expert may be able to pin their age to a 12-month band, between Juninho's arrival to the tune of a samba band and the disappearance of Emerson to the accompanying rhythm of bursting bubbles.

Some of Boro's problems seem to stem from *Elle's* long, dark nights. Emerson's girlfriend reportedly cannot take them. Then there is Middlesbrough itself. Ravanelli apparently said that he would prefer Manchester, but, sadly, United show no interest in buying him. Branco appears to have disliked the coaching set-up.

What proportion of this blizzard of rumour, gossip and innuendo is true is hard to gauge. Certainly, something is going on. Branco's departure was strange. Barmby's was sudden. The explanations of both were peremptory.

Robson is facing the first real test of his man-management skills. It is possible that Emerson may leave, even though he has re-

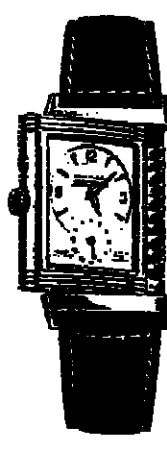
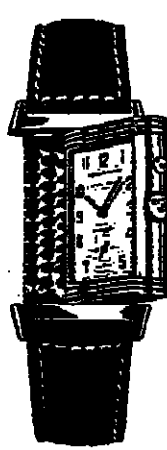
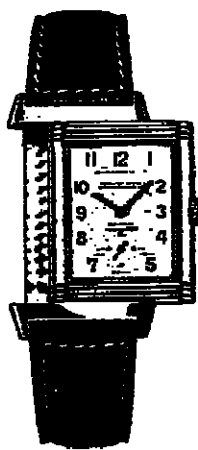
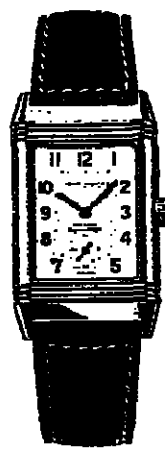
turned for the moment. Juninho could go to Italy and take Ravanelli with him. On Teesside, just one thing is certain: these days, even the crises at Middlesbrough are a lot more glamorous than they used to be.

With such behind-the-scenes shenanigans, you might expect the supporters to be upset or panicky, but Middlesbrough's are a phlegmatic lot. Toughened by years of disappointment, they are more likely to pierce their navels with nail-guns than to entertain optimism.

This season, at St James' Park, when the final whistle blew on a 3-1 defeat for Middlesbrough, a man behind me in a Brazil shirt leant on the barrier that separated us from the Newcastle following and yelled "You'll win now, you lot."

"We'll win more than yees," a large Geordie shouted back. "Aye," the man in the Brazil shirt retorted, "but we're the Boro. We don't expect to win owt."

I'm not sure if this reply had quite the crushing effect on the Geordie that the man in the Brazil shirt was aiming for, but it certainly cheered me up. It showed, too, that, despite all the recent excitement, Middlesbrough's supporters have kept their sense of proportion. They may need it in the months ahead.

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TENNIS: CHAMPION RECOVERS TO RETAIN BRITISH TITLE DESPITE COURAGEOUS CHALLENGE FROM INJURED RUSEDSKI

Henman's hesitation proves to be only temporary



Henman: setbacks

THE most satisfying year for British tennis in recent memory closed with a flourish, Tim Henman retaining his Guardian Direct national championship title at Telford, where he defeated, as last year, Greg Rusedski. This time, it was expected, though it nearly did not happen. This was not the best of Henman.

Yet, to have two players ranked in the top 50 in the world — Henman at No 27, Rusedski at No 48 — and to have risen in the Davis Cup arena is a welcome reversal of British decline. Even though Rusedski, a borrowed Canadian, was nursing a back injury yesterday, he extended Henman to give a full-house crowd three close sets. Henman won 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, after surviving two break points in the final set. It has been a difficult past month

for Henman, with a string of first-round defeats since his impressive win against Wayne Ferreira, the South African ranked No 7 in the world, in Ostrava, Czech Republic, where he also defeated Rusedski. The setback, he admitted yesterday, has been as much temperamental as technical, but has not been something that lost him sleep, two of the opponents being higher-ranked.

This year, the roles were reversed [Rusedski was the underdog], Henman said yesterday, "so it was nice to win. Some people said I now had nothing to gain and everything to lose, but that's not how I saw it. I just wanted to play good tennis."

"It was careless to waste a service-break lead in both the first two sets and, with two tie-breaks, it was up for grabs. On the key points in the third set, Greg had a great opportunity, but didn't take it. On both break points, I played pretty solid."

Rusedski had needed treatment for strained back muscles after his semi-final victory on Saturday over Paul Robinson, 22, and had been uncertain whether he would be fit enough to contest the final.

Physiotherapy restored him to action, but he admitted that he had found it difficult to stop and turn mid-point. "I gave it my best," he said. "I thought it was OK to play."

He had, however, needed to take an injury break at set-all, though he was confined, by regulations, to attention by the tournament physiotherapist and not his own specialist. "I decided I wanted to play it out," Rusedski said.

"I did have my chances with those break points, though I had wanted to get it in two sets. All credit to Tim for his victory."

While Henman has been faltering recently, Rusedski has improved. He puts it down to increased mental

toughness, to finding a way to win when he is up against it as he nearly did yesterday, when twice breaking back immediately after losing his own service.

Throughout the first set, Henman seemed hesitant. Rusedski the more assured, and that was the mood when they went into the first tie-break.

In fact, Henman led 4-2, only to surrender the next three points. He then had set point at 6-5, but a sliced first service by Rusedski gave him 6-6 and he took the set with a backhand volley at the net, having consistently shown the courage to come forward.

As Rusedski served for 5-5 in the second set, his power and confidence were controlling the match, but once more they moved to a tie-break. At 3-3, Rusedski netted a backhand half-volley at the end of a rally, then hit a backhand long to give Henman three set points.

Though he saved the first two, Henman forced a final set with a deep second service.

Now, Rusedski went off to fit his colourful blue corset, returning to take the odd-game lead all the way to 4-4, having missed his chance for the critical break when leading 3-2 and having Henman 15-40 on a double fault.

This time, Rusedski faltered. With a retrieving cross-court forehand pass, Henman gained break point for 5-4 and took it with a firm backhand pass down the line, serving out for the match.

Two nice polite British guys had given a nice polite British crowd an exciting afternoon. There is some distance to go, however, to close the gap between this national championship in Telford and the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) finals about to take place this week in Hanover.

Glimmer of hope amid gloom of women's game

Boom and slump bumped uncomfortably along beside each other last week in Telford, a town that styles itself as the "birthplace of industry". British men's tennis continued to march forward with the gleaming white smiles of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski plastered across its face. The women, relegated firmly now to the unaccustomed position of the weaker sex in the domestic game, tried to slip by unnoticed in their vale of tears.

Almost a generation has passed since that golden age when Virginia Wade and Sue Barker reached the semi-finals of Wimbledon in 1977 and Wade went on to win the final. Six years after that, Jo Durie reached two grand slam semi-finals and rose to her highest-ever ranking of fifth in the world. It has been downhill all the way since.

Sam Smith, the top female player in Great Britain and the third to hold the distinction this year, along with Rachel Viclet and Claire Wood, languishes as No 137 in the world rankings, nearly 100 places above her nearest British challenger. With that background, it should have been a tall order for the women to flinch any attention away from the men last week, but, despite Julie Pullin, the No 8 seed, making a mockery of the tournament by progressing to the final on Saturday without dropping a set and then trouncing a hapless Claire Taylor in the second most one-sided final in the history of these championships, they managed it.

It was low-budget, angst-

Oliver Holt says that all may not be lost as the poor relation of British tennis struggles to regain its credibility

ridden, soap opera stuff. The main ingredient was a story about Smith and Wood, two of the pre-tournament favourites, indulging in a few mild observations about the pallid state of the women's game in Britain and then being reduced to tears by the severity of the carpetings supposedly administered by a Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) official.

Some of the other players then made Smith and Wood aware of their own anger at their comments. By Friday, the atmosphere had become so fraught that Barker, in Telford in her capacity as a BBC presenter, exhibited the kind of paranoia that is throttling the sport when she was asked a routinely anodyne question about the state of domestic women's tennis.

"I would rather not say anything," Barker said, "not after all that has gone on this week. I do not want to add to it." Wood, the defending champion, who lost a low-quality semi-final to Taylor on Friday, did not want to talk either. "She's had enough this week," someone said.

Mercifully, there are faint indications that the whole sorry affair might represent the nadir for the women's game, the beginning of a long haul back to Henman-like

respectability. Pullin's advance to the final, her demolition of Taylor and the quiet determination that shone through in her post-match press conference were cause for cautious hope even if her evident surprise was an indictment of the standards around her. "I didn't expect it to be so easy," Pullin, 21, said afterwards, stressing that her goal now was to improve her world ranking of 330.

Yet it was in the steady improvements being guided by men like Leighton Alfred, Pullin's coach, from his LTA centre of excellence in Nottingham, and in the forthright and intelligent opinions of men such as Alan Jones, Durie's former coach, that more optimism must spring.

Most of all, though, the feeling that the future might hold something brighter was visible in the constructive assessments of Durie herself. For years, Durie dominated the British game, almost willing someone to depose her, but winning in spite of herself.

She retired a year ago to concentrate on trying to save the last of the last generation that vainly pursued her, dismayed by figures that show, for the past five years, there are three times more boys playing the game at junior level than girls.

"It is something that quickly drifts into the realms of sociology," Durie said, "but the basic problem is that the number of girls getting into sport is starting to dwindle. Perhaps it is because there are more working women, but it is



Pullin, the women's national champion, displays the trophy that she was surprised to win at Telford on Saturday

getting difficult to fill tournament draws for girls in junior tournaments around the country while the boys game seems to be booming.

"It is between 14 and 18 that the real fall-off occurs and it may just be that there are more avenues now for girls to go down to escape from the norm. Whatever it is, we do not have the raw materials we used to have 15 or 20 years ago.

"You can't blame the LTA because, over the past five or ten years, they have built a host of tennis centres where you do not have to be a member, they are pay-as-you-play and you can wear what you want. We have got national squads, coaches to pick out talent from a younger age. They have got everything in place, there has been a great change and we are waiting.

"We could always get one coming through who is a bit of a genius, but I am not looking for miracle cures. We are working on their self-confidence, their attitude and their honesty and that is before we even start on the tennis."

In the long term, I am hoping that, whoever I am working with is going to come through with a professional attitude and be the best they

can be, but I am not thinking in terms of having two players in the top 50 like the men. Realistically, we want girls who were in the 40s and are now in the 30s to get down to the 20s. If we could get about eight girls with decent rankings, they would all urge each other on. There is a lot of pressure on them because there are fewer of them, but things are getting better."

SWIMMING

Rolph shuns Britain for Paris match

By CRAIG LORD

THE National Lottery money that British swimming is to receive early in the new year will come too late to keep one of the nation's best young talents in the country for her national championships.

Susan Rolph, of Newcastle, was touched out by Sandra Volker, the Olympic bronze medal-winner, in a tightly contested 50 metres freestyle at the first short-course grand prix meeting of the new season in Leicester on Saturday. The day before, Rolph, 18, swam 2min 15.5sec in the 200 metres individual medley, a time that indicates that she is capable of winning a medal at the European short-course championships in Rostock, next month.

Yet, whatever Rolph achieves in Rostock, she will not be displaying her talents in front of a home crowd at Sheffield the week before Christmas. Instead, she will be in France competing for Clichy, the Paris club that signed her for £1,200 and pays her way whenever she is called up for duty.

Derek Snelling, six weeks into his job as Great Britain's first national performance director for swimming, wants to spend some of the lottery funding on out-of-country training and racing for the national senior squad, which includes Rolph.

However, her absence from the national championships is not what Snelling has in mind. He likes to build up the profiles of his top swimmers, which is difficult if they are abroad more than they are at home.

Trying times for viewers seeking European rugby

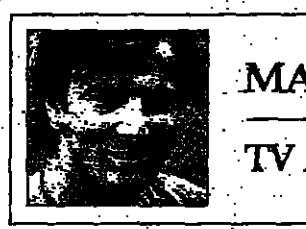
MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

Oh to be in Wales, now that rugby's here. Sadly, however, I was in London, which meant that, along with everyone else east of Offa's Dyke on Saturday afternoon, I was off to Welford Road. "Now, in addition to what was advertised," Steve Rider purred, "it's rugby union and live rugby union at that."

Finally, the Heineken Cup had arrived on television. Quite why we were going to Leicester rather than Cardiff Arms Park, I have been unable to discover. For all Nigel Starmer-Smith went on about the "European dimension" adding bile to a "club encounter", Leicester v Harlequins remained precisely that, a club encounter. True, Wales is not exactly everybody's idea of Europe, but there at least (disastrous Anglo-Welsh Cups notwithstanding) there was novelty — the biggest club in England taking on the biggest club in Wales.

Add in the romance of Jonathan Davies's recall to the Welsh squad, the appointment of Phil de Glanville as England captain and the arrival of Henry Paul and Jason Robinson from rugby league and you had a game crying out for the full television treatment in both countries. Viewers to BBC Wales, deemed to be uninterested in the English game of tennis, got the full 80 minutes. The rest of us got five minutes of mangled highlights that robbed the game of most of its drama. Did you know that Bath ran rather than kicked an injury time penalty? No, neither did I until I watched a rather fuller version on Rugby Special yesterday.

But enough of being charitable. Let us just be thankful that rugby's European Cup has at last found a television home. Let down by ITV and then turned down by BSkyB, charting its progress to date has been rather like knowing there is a good party on but not having the address. Well, now we do — the BBC's *Grandstand* and *Rugby Special*, the latter back again yesterday for the second week-end running. "So much wonderful rugby, so little time," John Inverdale began. When was the last time he was able to say that?



On just about any other Saturday this autumn I am sure that one of the quarter-finals would have got the full *Grandstand* treatment. But Saturday's was one of the strongest programmes for weeks, with the preview of the first round of the FA Cup, recorded highlights of the British ice-skating championships and live-action from the tennis at Telford all competing for air-time. The result was a compromise that I had hoped had we had seen the last of when the BBC lost the rights to rugby league: five coverage, but only of the second half.

Still, within a couple of minutes of the joining Starmer-Smith to the rather unexpected David Morris, Carling had run to a decent try and we were off. With the scores levelled, soon afterwards, Starmer-Smith help-

fully ran us through the procedure for what would happen if the scores were still level at full time — 15 minutes each way of extra time, followed by a try count-back, followed by the toss of the coin. When Paul Challinor's potentially score-levering penalty hit the upright, the sighs of relief from the *Grandstand* studio were almost audible.

Yesterday, however, it was signs of regret that you could hear emanating from English front rooms. Not because Cardiff had won (well, perhaps a little) but because *Rugby Special* began with a tantalising compilation of the action from the qualifying rounds. Viewers in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will have seen much of it before, but for us deprived lot in middle England it was a glimpse of what might have been — and let us hope — will be next season.

Why the highlights then began with the Leicester game rather than the one from Cardiff... but at least de Glanville, in a post-match interview, had the last word. The cup, he said, was "a fantastic competition, providing the stepping stone between domestic and international rugby". Finally, we had seen what he was talking about.

Match reports, pages 34-35

EQUESTRIANISM

Raymakers in driving seat after third win

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR
IN MILLSTREET, CO COKE

PIET RAYMAKERS, of Holland, gained his third £20,000 car in four weeks when he and Jewel's Emerald won the Volvo World Cup qualifier here on Saturday night. Raymakers, the former national champion, who won the Helsinki and Oslo qualifiers on the same horse last month, completed the seven-fence jump-off course in 33.49sec — nearly 11sec faster than the runner-up, Roelof Bril, his compatriot, on Bolvorm's Burggravin.

The performance has confirmed Raymakers' belief that Jewel's Emerald, an 11-year-old German gelding that he has ridden since January, is the horse which comes closest to matching Katina, the brilliant mare on which he won a team gold and individual silver medal at the 1992 Olympic Games. "He always gives me 100 per cent and a no fence scares him," Raymakers said.

British riders had a disappointing day with only Michael Whitaker, on the young Ashley, and Veronique, his wife on Eldorado, reaching the jump-off. They finished ninth and twelfth respectively. Nick Skelton, who had decided against giving Dollar Girl, his 1994 Millstreet winner, a warm-up class in deference to her 16 years, incurred four faults at the penultimate fence.

"She was jumping well, it was just unlucky," Skelton said. The same could be said for John Whitaker's Gammon and Di Lampard's Abbeville Dream, who hit the fourth and second fences respectively. William Funnell and Conner, one of the British favourites after his second place in Denmark last month, retired after knocking down the third and fifth fences.

Despite the British debacle, Frank Rothberger, the horse designer, appeared to have tipped on the side of Britain in the opening round, in which 14 horses were faultless, but the best expected were quickly dispatched in the jump-off, leaving six of Europe's top partnerships in battle to it.

Alexandra Ledermann, of France, the Olympic bronze medal-winner, took an early lead with Rochet, but was swiftly overtaken by Raymakers. John Ledingham, on Kibbika, put up a bravura performance in front of his home crowd and finished just behind Ledermann in fourth place. Bill, the last to go, gave Raymakers some anxious moments before finishing in 34.86sec.

James Fisher, who had four faults in the qualifier in Boverby Queen, his Wembley grand prix winner, gained the first British success of the show when he won the Dairygold Speed Derby yesterday on Renville.

Results, page 37

Congratulations to all the 1996 Regional Final Winners

Meas Pierson
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Banned player makes controversial return after committing ice hockey's cardinal sin

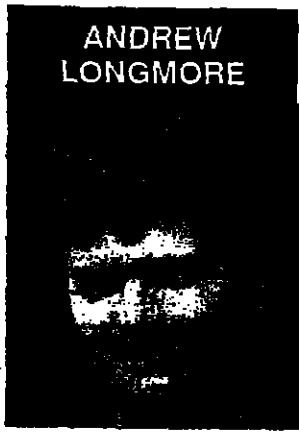
Yewchuk affair opens up whole new brawl game

For most outsiders, ice hockey is a sport that legalises grievous bodily harm and punishes first-degree murder with two minutes in the sin bin. The case of Marty Yewchuk, however, has forced British ice hockey to examine its conscience with uncomfortable clarity over the past month. Many within the game feel that it has failed the test as comprehensively as football did with Eric Cantona.

Yewchuk, of Cardiff Devils, returned to the ice two days ago — five weeks and nine games after an incident described by one respected coach as "one of the worst he had ever seen in sport". That the second game of his controversial comeback last night was in Cardiff against Nottingham Panthers, whose Daryl Olsen had borne the brunt of Yewchuk's flailing stick, only served to heighten the tension and highlight the anarchy in a game desperately in need of strong policing. In the absence of suitable justice from the authorities, the danger was that the Panthers would exact their own vengeance.

He and Olsen only briefly renewed acquaintance, though the tension was palpable. Deep down, Yewchuk knew he was lucky to be playing so soon. Olsen even more so.

Only ice hockey aficionados will know the name of Marty Yewchuk. He is one in a long line of husky Canadians forced into exile to earn a living. His credentials include a spell in the East Coast League in Canada and in the German second division, which still makes him better than most homegrown players. He is 29, a graduate



ANDREW LONGMORE

of the University of Alberta, intelligent and eloquent and, in the way of someone used to life in the shadows, highly embarrassed by this unwanted moment in the spotlight.

After the game against Bracknell Bees on Saturday, which Cardiff won 2-1, he was reluctant to talk about the incident. "It was just an accident: carelessness," he

admitted. Yewchuk's response: an instinctive, full-blooded, backhand swing with his stick — "baseball style" — as one witness described it — that caught Olsen flush on his head and knocked him to the ground. A full-scale fight erupted. Yewchuk was ejected from the game and Olsen was led groggily to the bench. He resumed playing later, but that hardly excused Yewchuk's brutal reaction. "It was one of the worst incidents I've seen in sport," Mike Blaisdell, the Panthers coach, said.

Yewchuk's automatic three-match ban was increased to nine by a disciplinary committee. He was also fined £1,000, a heavy penalty for a player on £650 a week. The committee took the view that the offence was not deliberate. "If anyone had thought he had deliberately retaliated with a stick in the face, he would not be in the game," Nico Toemen, a member of the committee and the league's supervisor of referees, said. The general feeling was that Yewchuk had escaped lightly. Cardiff disagreed. Despite strong pressure from the authori-

'It was one of the worst incidents that I have ever seen in sport'

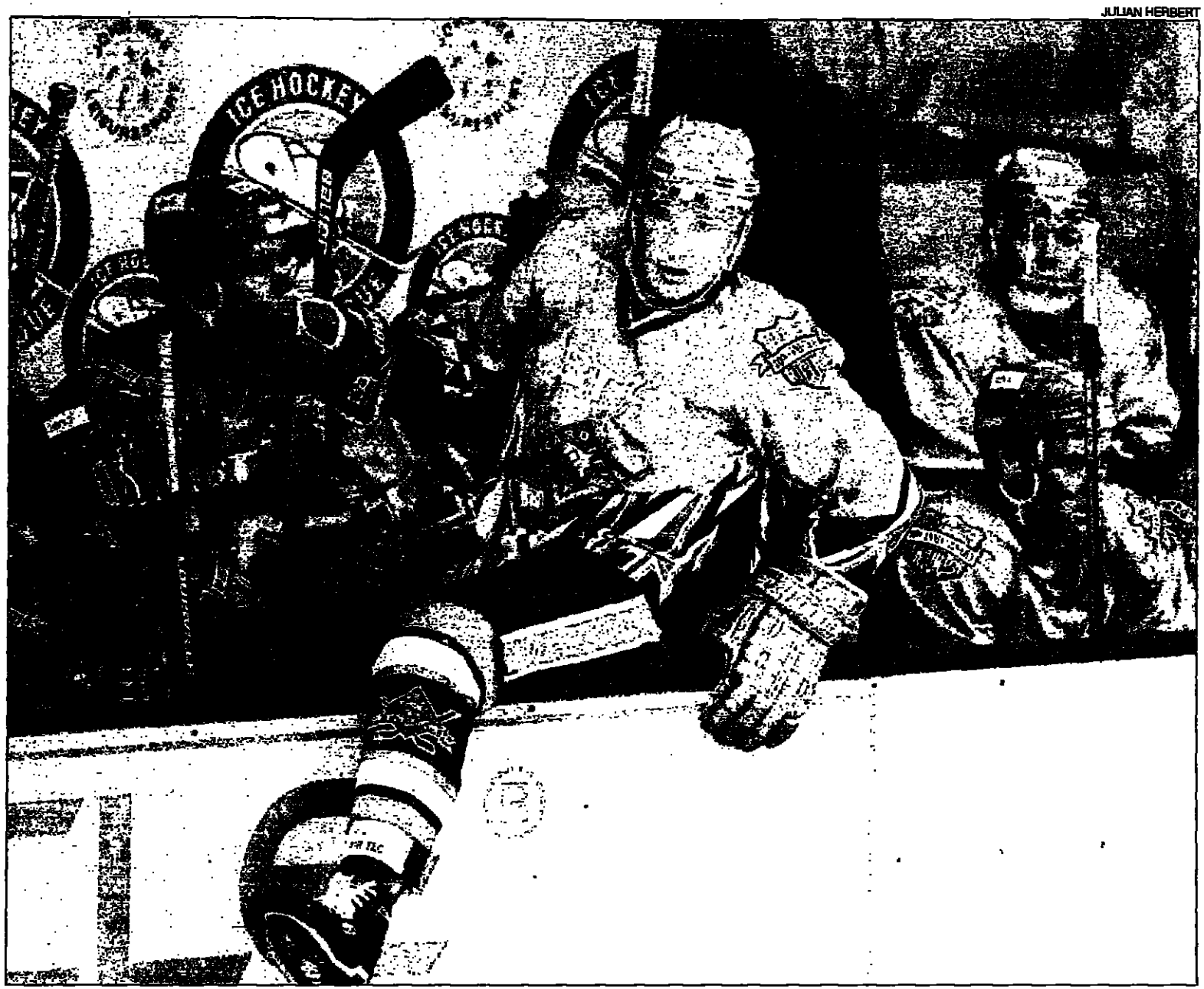
ties and, probably, David Tennant, their own chairman, who is also chairman of the Superleague, the club appealed against the suspension.

The three-man appeals committee met and agreed with Cardiff. The suspension was wrong. It was far too lenient. They banned Yewchuk to the end of December, the equivalent of 22 matches, partly as a message to the players on foul play, partly as a punishment to Cardiff for not imposing their own penalty in the way that

Manchester United had done with Cantona. So far, so good. Then the case descended into farce.

On legal advice, Yewchuk and the Devils challenged the ban under the Superleague's own hastily written rules, which stated that nine matches was the maximum ban. The league had to back down and Yewchuk resumed his career on Saturday night, much to the disgust of everyone, it seems, but the Devils.

"Sticking" offences of any sort, let alone one as blatant as Yewchuk's, are heavily



JULIAN HERBERT

Yewchuk leaps onto the ice to return to action for Cardiff after a nine-match ban for his now notorious assault on an opponent, below

condemned by the players and the bad blood was evident. After an averagely physical encounter, some of the Bracknell players refused to shake Yewchuk by the hand.

"You can bodycheck a guy, you get in a fight, break it up and then get on with the game. But if you're going to hurt another player seriously with a stick, that's the biggest no-no of all," Chris Brant, of Bracknell Bees, said. "The general consensus is that he should have been out of the game for a lot longer."

There is, though, a grain of truth in Yewchuk's claim that he has been made a scapegoat. Having taken over the running of the league, a new contract from Sky safely tucked into their pockets, the clubs were anxious to be seen to be in control. Yewchuk was the symbol. Instead, the Yewchuk affair has exposed all the old weakness and division in a game still trying to find its feet. No wonder, then, that Blaisdell warned his Panthers that "the image of hockey was on the line" in Cardiff last night.



CENTRAL TELEVISION

SQUASH

First-round struggle for Harris

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN KARACHI

DEL HARRIS, the England No.1, came close to defeat yesterday in the first round of the 1996 world open championship here, at the hands of Dan Jenson, 22, a qualifier from Australia.

Harris allowed a lead of two games and 1-7 in the third to develop into a 91-minute, 15-14, 15-13, 14-15, 12-15, 15-14, struggle, from which he eventually escaped only by risking all on his second ball for a single point tie-break in the match, and then hitting a freakish forehand cross-court drive into the deep left nick.

Jenson had needed five long, hard games to beat Nick Taylor, of Lancashire, in the longest qualifying final on Saturday and he seemed to come alive yesterday only when Harris failed to clinch the first of seven match points in the third game.

The win takes Harris to a second-round match tomorrow against Craig Rowland, the young Australian, who unexpectedly reached the world open semi-finals last year and, even more astonishingly, put Jansher Khan out of the Tournament of Champions in New York last month.

Jansher, from Pakistan, the defending champion, started his campaign for a record eight open world titles by dismissing Craig Warrick, a South African qualifier, 15-8, 15-10, 15-6, but his reward is a second-round encounter with Jonathon Power, of Canada, who, in recent weeks, has won the Tournament of Champions and the German Masters.

Results page 37

CRICKET: RAIN DECREASES CHANCES OF ANOTHER WIN FOR ENGLAND A

Harris makes inroads against Academy

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN MOUNT GAMBIER

ANDREW HARRIS, the Derbyshire fast bowler, claimed both wickets as the Australian Cricket Academy reached 70 for two in the 17 overs possible on the third day of the England A tour match in Mount Gambier yesterday.

Despite a toe injury, Harris

gave England a buoyant start to a day of wind and rain by trapping Michael Dighton leg-before in the fourth over after the Academy had started their second innings 14 runs behind. Jerry Cassell, who finished unbeaten with 42, then forged a half-century partnership with Lee Carlseldine, before Harris forced an edge to Hegg.

"If there had been no play, then we would have talked about abandoning the match and having a one-day game on Monday," David Graveney, the England manager, said, "but, with the ball swinging around, we are in a good position."

Jason Gallian, the Lancashire opener, was unable to field after being hit on the

index finger of his right hand while batting on Saturday when England A were dismissed for 272.

Gallian had only just returned from a hand injury sustained in the opening match of the tour. "The finger is badly swollen, but not fractured," Graveney said. "It's very frustrating because he had been working hard in the nets at Adelaide and batted his way back into a bit of form."

Dean Headley, rested for the match with the Academy, has healed a misunderstanding with Michael Atherton, the England captain, by apologising for comments that he made in the aftermath of the win over South Australia.

Atherton became upset by remarks which indicated that he doubted Headley's ability to bowl an outswinger. "There was a reaction from London, but Dean has not been forced to apologise to anybody," Graveney stressed.

MOUNT GAMBIER SCOREBOARD	
AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY: First Innings 258 (M Dighton 72, S Craig 61, A F Giles 4-63)	
Second Innings	
J Cassell not out 42	
M Dighton b Harris 4	
A Carlseldine c Hegg b Harris 21	
*J Pootie not out 3	
Extras (lb 2, w 1) 3	
Total (2 wickets) 70	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-70	
BOWLING: Chapple 7-1-22-0; Harris 5-30-2: Eatham 5-1-18-0	
ENGLAND A: First Innings	
M A Butcher c Haddin b Nash 81	
J E R Gallian c Craig b Nash 18	
M P Vaughan c Cassell b Craig 40	
O A Sheeh c Haddin b Nash 28	
*A J Hollis c Sutherland 62	
M A Eatham c Carlseldine b Nash 0	
T W K Hegg c Pootie b Nash 1	
A F Giles c Haddin b Nash 0	
G Chapple c Smith b Hewett 0	
A J Harris c Pootie b Nash 10	
P M Such not out 0	
Extras (lb 5, lb 5, nb 22) 32	
Total 272	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-47, 2-119, 3-180, 4-191, 5-191, 6-199, 7-199, 8-199, 9-205	
BOWLING: Nash 20-3-66-7; Hewett 15-2-46-2; Thornley 8-2-17-0; Sutherland 9-2-33-0; Pootie 6-1-19-0; Craig 10-3-36-1; Smith 19-7-25-0	
Umpires: A Hunter and K Russell	

SAILING

Golding facing race against time

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

MIKE GOLDING, the skipper of the leading boat in the BT Global Challenge, is facing a race against time to get his yacht, Group 4, ready for the start of the second leg, after it hit a rock off Rio de Janeiro on Friday while making around eight knots.

Group 4 was out on a day sail when she clunked into an underwater rock that took a chunk out of her keel. The impact was such that it is feared that the keelbolts may have been slightly loosened on the eve of the Cape Horn leg.

A diver has already inspected the damage and a further inspection will be made this morning at the Yacht Club of Rio de Janeiro, where Group 4 is moored with the 13 other Challenge yachts, now in their last stages of preparation for the restart on Wednesday.

Chay Blyth, the race director, said yesterday that customised equipment used to tighten the keelbolts on the Challenge yachts was being

sent out from England, but because of a delay in Golding reporting the incident, the gear may not arrive in time.

Blyth has not ruled out the possibility that Group 4 may be held back until the work is completed.

Another pre-start problem is a torn spinnaker off Courtauld's International.

which was sent back to Great Britain for extensive repairs but which has so far not made it back to Rio. If it has not arrived by Wednesday, all the yachts may have to surrender one spinnaker for the leg in order not to put Courtauld's at a disadvantage.

Young voyager, page 7

HOCKEY

Reading's title hopes hit hard by Gibson

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

RICHARD GIBSON was on target again for East Grinstead yesterday, his three goals from open play being mainly responsible for a 4-2 win at Reading, a result that cost Reading the leadership of the premier division of the men's National League.

Gibson's first goal, after two minutes, was answered five minutes later by Slay, from a short corner, and Reading went into the lead through Ashdown after 19 minutes. East Grinstead turned the tables in the second half, however, Gibson equalising. Boyse putting them in front and finally Gibson making the game safe with two minutes to spare.

Reading were displaced at the top of the table by Cannock and Southgate, Billson, the champions, taking precedence on goal difference. Cannock won 1-0 against Old Loughtonians at Chigwell, even though Loughtonians dominated play in both periods, forcing ten short corners. The issue was settled seven

minutes before the end when Parnham scored off a rebound from a short corner. Loughtonians were down to ten men when the goal was scored. Dover having been suspended.

A goal by Attala, three minutes before the end, enabled Southgate to defeat Guildford 4-3. Goals by Shaw and Davis put Southgate 2-0 ahead in 11 minutes, but Jennings was quick to reply, only for Duthie to regain Southgate's two-goal advantage shortly before the interval. Guildford fought back to level terms through Bilsland and Matthews before Attala's winner.

Havant had one of their better days but still lost 1-0 to Teddington. Billson, scoring four minutes before the end. Barford Tigers threw away early chances in a 3-1 home defeat by Hounslow in driving rain. Nurse and Zak Jones scored for Hounslow. Dharminder Singh replying from a short corner.

CYCLING

Thackray ploughs to victory

BY PETER BRYAN

RICHARD THACKRAY, who won the second race of the four-round National Cyclo-Cross Trophy at Wolverhampton yesterday, put to good use strength built up racing mountain bikes.

It was not a day for the faint-hearted on a mainly cloying surface and three riders quickly seized control of the 10.5-mile race. Thackray, Barrie Clark, the defending champion, and Stuart Blunt went clear, spurred, perhaps, by the knowledge that Tim Gould had been brought down soon after the start.

Thackray, revelling in the rain and mud, pushed on to win by 44sec from Clark.

Graeme Obree, the former world pursuit champion and record-holder, made a winning return after a five-month absence by beating Rob Hayles in a 4,000 metres paced pursuit in Manchester.

BASKETBALL

Leopards take leaf out of Keegan's book

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

THE engaging, adventurous philosophy practised to such deadly effect by Newcastle United's footballers is beginning to serve the Leopards' basketball players just as fruitfully. It was after the London-based squad, consisting almost entirely of Americans, had reached the last four of the Sainsbury's Classic National Cup for the second time in three years that Billy Mims, their coach, said: "I kind of agree with Kevin Keegan. We don't just try to win, we try to entertain."

With his mind on a sizeable crowd at the top-of-the-table Budweiser League fixture against Sheffield Sharks on Thursday, Mims is understandably keen to emphasise the entertainment value, although preferably it will not be at the expense of a Sharks victory.

The crowd at Bracknell on Saturday were forced to grin and bear it as the Leopards raced to a 102-87 win, which took them into the semi-finals

alongside London Towers, the holders, the Sharks and Newcastle Eagles, who had all won their home ties on Friday night. Intensive defensive play had raised Tigers' hopes of avenging recent defeats in the league and trophy until the Leopards suddenly asserted their authority.

The Tigers need a work permit for Jeff Clifton, their new 6ft 7in American, as replacement for Kevin Vulin, who was ousted last night for the liking of Mick Bett, the Tigers coach.

Newcastle followed up their impressive cup success over Birmingham Bulls by winning their Budweiser League fixture 88-77 at Manchester Giants. Greg Modzelewski's basket from inside his own half on the interval buzzer gave the Eagles the inspiration to lead thereafter, while the Bulls recovered from their cup upset to win 103-93 away to Hemel and Watford Royals, now without a win in all 14 games this season.

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FOOTBALL

Wolves forced to face home truths by Birmingham

Wolverhampton Wtds ... 1
Birmingham City ... 2

By PAT GIBSON

BIRMINGHAM City, who had not won away from home in 22 matches, stretching back for more than a year, became the latest side to take advantage of the Molineux malaise that is turning Wolverhampton Wanderers and their supporters into nervous wrecks.

This was Wolverhampton's fifth defeat in their past seven games — the other two have been drawn — in their palatial stadium and, unless Mark McGhee, their manager, comes up with a cure for their bizarre homesickness before too long, their hopes of promotion to the FA Cup will disappear for another year.

As McGhee says, most clubs would give anything for crowds of the size and passion that they have at Molineux, but for some reason it is the opposition that seems to thrive on the atmosphere, while Wol-

verhampton seem inhibited. Only Bull, who yesterday scored his eleventh goal of the season — his 27th for the club — appears to be inspired, and even he cannot win matches on his own every week.

Birmingham took advantage of Wolverhampton's nervousness as early as the seventh minute. Horne, the most influential figure in an impressive Birmingham midfield, released Jackson on the right and, when his cross came over, Richards concentrated all his efforts on making sure that the ball did not reach Furlong. He had, however, overlooked the fact that Breen was still upfield from Birmingham's previous attack and it was he who slid the ball into the net.

Wolverhampton were level within two minutes. Osborn hit the ball long from deep inside his own half and Bull, timing his run to perfection, was on to it in a flash, controlling it with his first touch, confidently rounding Bennett and stroking the ball into an empty goal.

McGhee had opted to play with three strikers, but, as he admitted afterwards, only one of them did the job that he had in mind. Roberts and Goodman were muscular enough, but they never made any kind of impact. Instead, it was Birmingham who always carried the greater threat. Their winning goal came in the 56th minute.

Not for the first time, the Wolverhampton defence showed a penchant for getting in one another's way and, when Van Der Laan deflected the ball away from Venus and into the path of Bowen, the Birmingham man cut into the middle to beat Stowell with a left-foot shot. It cannoned off the far post but straight to Legg, who rammed it back in.

It was time for McGhee to switch to plan B, which he did by withdrawing Goodman and Van Der Laan and sending on Dennison and Thomas and reverting to a 4-4-2 formation, but it was too late. Thomas, making his first appearance for 18 months after a series of knee operations, received a hero's welcome, but, by then, Birmingham were in no mood to surrender.

"What pleased me most about it was that there was a greater desire to compete than we have shown in our previous away games," Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, said. "I think the fact that it was a derby game in a big stadium in front of a big crowd lifted the players."

Francis admitted that Birmingham were fortunate not to concede a penalty 11 minutes from the end, when Johnson took Atkins's legs from under him, but McGhee said: "It would have been nice to have got a penalty and a point, but the bigger picture is more important to me and I didn't think we worked hard enough."

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-3-3): M Stowell — J Smith, D Richards, M Venus, A Thompson — M Atkins, S Osborn, R Van Der Laan (sub: G Thomas, 80min) — D Goodman (sub: R Dennison 60, S Bull, 10min).

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): Bennett — M Jackson, S Gray, G Brown, M Johnson — J Holland, P Tait, B Horne, A Legg (sub: P Devlin 76) — P Furlong (sub: G Abbott 88), J Bowen (sub: M Newell, 81). Referee: P Richards.



Tait, of Birmingham City, and Osborn, of Wolverhampton, battle for control of the ball during the match at Molineux yesterday

Palace primed to generate staying power

Bolton Wanderers ... 2
Crystal Palace ... 2

By DAVID MADDOCK

AS THIS entertaining game unfolded, the Premiership scouts began to sit forward in their seats, pencils scribbling more rapidly. There were plenty of names for them to note — Freedman, Johansen, Todd, Blake, Hopkin — all good enough to make the step up into the higher division.

The question is, are their respective clubs? Bolton Wanderers and Crystal Palace each offered a convincing enough argument in a contest of high quality on Saturday, but we have seen often enough that teams from the Nationwide League first division rarely survive long at the rarified heights that they seek to attain.

Four goals, plenty of skill and intelligence; this match offered things frequently lacking in the Premiership. So why is it that the teams that win promotion almost inevitably struggle? First, the skill was not performed at the same pace experienced in the top division and it is ability to perform comfortably at a high tempo that defines quality.

Second, the clubs now challenging for promotion do not have the resources to compete over a long period. Dave Bassett, the Crystal Palace manager, pointed to the experience of Nottingham Forest and his Sheffield United side as evidence.

"Forest went back up and seemed to have cracked it, but now they are struggling again," he explained. "It's not just about one season, it's about a long-term plan. At Sheffield United, we scrapped

for four years to stay there, but in the end we couldn't survive. The problem was, we managed on a shoestring for a couple of seasons and thought we could do it that way, and you can't."

Bassett's Wimbledon and Sheffield United days have equipped him perfectly to judge the requirements of the Premiership and his Palace side has a look of promotion about it. At Burnden Park, Palace showed resilience, after trailing by two goals, and a genuine quality in midfield.

Bassett accepted, however, that pinpointing the growing gap between the divisions is the easy part; finding a solution is the real trick. Only Wimbledon seem consistently to have discovered that one.

"The trick is to stay there in the Premiership," he said. "That's not easy at all, as even Forest are finding out. You

can't go in looking for 11 new players, you have already to have a nucleus of quality, keep it and then add to it, but that all takes money and an awful lot of time. It means finding quality in the lower divisions, bringing on brilliant kids and buying well. How many can do that?"

Bassett believes that, if he can hang on to Freedman and Hopkin, then promotion could be on. Freedman, bought from Barnet for £875,000, is a gem. He has composure and touch, as he displayed for Palace's second goal, after 40 minutes, when he glided into the penalty area and found the corner with a left-foot shot.

Hopkin had scored two minutes earlier to drag his side back into the contest with a clean strike from outside the area. Before that, it was Bolton who displayed the quality, Andy Todd, the son of Colin,

the manager, prompting from

midfield as McGinlay and Blake found gaps up front. Sheridan, on loan from Sheffield Wednesday and another player of rare ability, scored their first goal on 11 minutes, another scorching shot from distance. McGinlay added the second after 20 minutes from the penalty spot. Quinn forced into a rash challenge.

It would be no surprise to see both teams promoted from what is a very ordinary division. They did, however, run out of steam in the second half, and one hopes that is not a sign of things to come.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-2-2): K Baragall — G Bergeson, C Farquhar, G Toppin, J Pollock — M Johnson, Sheridan, A Todd, S Salley (sub: S Green, 80min) — J McGinlay, N Blake. CRYSTAL PALACE (3-5-2): C Day — M Edwards, D Lurie, A Roberts, R Quinn (sub: D Doran, 88), K Mowatt — D Hopkin, D Fothergill, G Vickers, G Dyer (sub: P Topley, 88), N Shippenay. Referee: J Kirby.

Collymore move held up by Villa setback

THE expected move of Stan Collymore, the Liverpool forward, to Aston Villa has been thrown into doubt after a setback in the deal taking Savo Milosevic from Villa Park to Perugia.

Milosevic, the Yugoslavia international, has returned to England and will report for training with Villa today after Perugia said that they are prepared to pay only £2 million for him.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, had been intending to use the £4.5 million transaction that he thought had been tied up with Perugia to help finance a £6 million move for Collymore, which was expected to be completed this week.

Little still hopes that the Milosevic deal can be re-activated, but the only way that he may be able to meet

Liverpool's asking price for Collymore is by selling another of his established players. Newcastle United are believed to be interested in Mark Bosnich, the Villa goalkeeper, who is rated at £4 million.

Meanwhile, Rangers have said they will refuse any attempt by Sheffield United to buy Paul Gascoigne.

United are reported to have been in touch with Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, about Gascoigne. Howard Kendall, the United manager, will have millions of pounds to spend after the club's share issue is launched shortly.

However, Donald Findlay, the Rangers vice-chairman, said: "I know of no change in our policy to have Gascoigne honour his three-year contract."

Bazeley makes happy return to home town

Northampton Town ... 0
Watford ... 1

By IVO TENNANT

DARREN BAZELEY was born in Northampton. He went to the High School, turned out for a team in the locality and, before joining Watford, stood on the terraces at the old County Ground, dwelling on the possibility of becoming a Northampton player. At the Sixfields Stadium yesterday, he knocked his home town side out of the FA Cup.

This was an equally pleasurable moment for those watching on television. Sky TV had chosen to cover the match and, according to Ian Atkins, the Northampton Town manager, they did so as "a measure of our progress". That was wishful thinking. The standard was dreadful — from both teams — and, for the goal, the entire match would have been truly forgettable.

Bazeley, though, has a habit of scoring timely goals. His first of the season, against Luton Town, was an equaliser in the final minute. Now, collecting a ball about 30 yards from

Northampton's goal midway through the second half, he spotted Woodman slightly off his line and carried a left-footed shot into the net off the underside of the bar.

It was an intentional goal, whatever Atkins thought. Indeed, earlier in the second half, Bazeley had attempted to lob Woodman, who is rather smaller than Peter Schmeichel, of Manchester United. Bazeley, 24, has been with Watford for six seasons, but retains a considerable affection for Northampton. He will not score two more important goals than he has this year.

Until that moment, a Watford defeat had seemed increasingly likely on an afternoon in which considered football was never to the fore.

The one comfort that Atkins can take is that, even though the match went out live, Northampton still attracted a capacity crowd. It could well be a while before the television cameras return.

NORTHAMPTON TOWN (4-4-2): A Woodman — I Coffey, R Hunter, R Warburton, L Macdonald (sub: C Lee, 76min) — I Sampson, S Parrish, J White (sub: L Coffey, 76), D O'Shea (sub: M Warner, 81) — M Cooper, N Graydon. WATFORD (4-4-2): K New — N Gibbs, K Miller, R Page (sub: R Johnson, 68), P Johnson — D Bentley, C Easton, D Connolly (sub: W Andrews, 63), T McCreay — D White, S Palmer. Referee: R Dicks.

Whitby foiled by poor finishing and puddles

Whitby Town ... 0
Hull City ... 0

By LOUISE TAYLOR

IN CONDITIONS better suited to water sports, Whitby Town were unlucky not to become the first non-League team to beat League opposition in the first round of the FA Cup yesterday.

Having forfeited home advantage and switched the match to neutral territory at Scarborough, Whitby, the Federation Brewery Northern League first division leaders, mastered the mud and puddles better than their Nationwide League third division rivals and did everything but score.

The farcical events were summed up early in the second period when, collecting Greaves's sliced clearance, Pitman found himself unmarked, inside and with only the goalkeeper to beat. His shot looked to be evading Carroll, only for the ball to take a deflected off a puddle near the penalty spot and trickle wide.

Whitby may well rue their missed opportunities when they visit Boothferry Park for the replay tomorrow week, the winners of which are at home to Crewe Alexandra in the second round.

One man certain to be warmly applauded in that rematch is Gregor Kitch, Hull's left wing back and the son of Bruce Kitch, presently the No 2 to Stewart Houston at Queens Park Rangers. Only 22, Kitch Jr has endeared himself to the Hull faithful with his left-foot skills, positional sense and vociferous organisation of older team-mates.

Terry Dolan, the Hull manager, employs a fluid tactical system that features individuals shuffling between various positions. Whitby's five-man back line seemed principally devised for damage limitation, but, as events, unravelled, this defiant quintet not only consigned the profligate Peacock to a frustrating afternoon but also proved a useful springboard for a series of counter-attacks spoilt only by puddles and poor finishing.

WHITBY TOWN (5-3-2): D Campbell — A Martin (sub: D Goodridge, 80min), K Goodridge, L Pearson, M Cook, D Logan — N Hodgson, A Totten, J Borrows (sub: A Robertson, 80) — P Pitman (sub: M Hall, 80), G Robertson. HULL CITY (3-4-3): R Carroll — I Wright, A Bhan, M Greaves — J Marks, M Cusley, W Joyce, G Kitch — A Brown, P Darby (sub: N Mann, 20), R Peacock. Referee: R Pearson.

Geordie support insufficient to save the other Newcastle

Newcastle Town ... 0
Notts County ... 2

By OLIVER HOIT

THEIR goalkeepers went to Tyneside last week to indulge in a bit of shot-stopping practice with Les Ferdinand and, before the game yesterday, there was a good luck message from Terry McDermott pinned to their notice board. They wished some of the Geordie power to rub off on them against Notts County, but, at the end of 90 freezing, sodden minutes at the Victoria Ground, there was only one Newcastle left in the FA Cup.

Newcastle Town, the North West Counties League team, who hail from Newcastle-under-Lyme, a few miles from Stoke, had fought their way through five rounds of the qualifying competition to reach the first round proper yesterday, beating footballing luminaries Derbyshire United and Bamber Bridge along the way. In the end, though, the gap of five divisions that separated them from Colin Murphy's struggling second division side was just too wide to span.

The danger signs appeared in only the fifth minute when Butler, the Newcastle goalkeeper, put some of Ferdinand's help to good use to block a powerful shot from Jones that should have been comfortably dispatched.

Newcastle, playing in Stoke because of police fears about the fitness of their own Lynne Valley stadium to stage the tie, scrapped and hustled as best they could and Burnard,



who, ironically, had made a solitary League appearance for Port Vale against Notts County, used his pace and confidence to unsettle them.

Newcastle, though, always looked vulnerable to County's bold strategy of starting with a 4-2-4 formation and were run ragged on the flanks. Burnard gave them false hope a minute after half-time when a long-range shot brought the best out of Ward, the County goalkeeper, but then their legs began to tire.

Two minutes later, a deep cross from Finnian, the County right winger, found Kennedy, the left winger, unmarked at the back post and he headed down and beyond Butler. County, who were met with

the sight of banners demanding the dismissal of Murphy when they ran out onto the pitch, began to coast now and Robinson side-footed a second goal after 65 minutes after a cross by Kennedy.

"I knew it would be tough at the start of the second half and that was how it proved," Glyn Chamberlain, the Newcastle manager, said, "but we were playing park football in 1973 so this was still a great day for us. We've got to go to the league leaders, Clitheroe, on Wednesday, so we have to get ready for that now."

Only 3,918 people watched the game instead of the 6,000 Newcastle that had quoted as the number they would need to break even. Never mind. Their chairman's name is Jack Walker.

NEWCASTLE TOWN (3-5-2): P Butler — L Burnard, W Johnson, A Holmes — R Posen, N Peckford, A Dunn, K Lawden (sub: S Wade, 80min), K Williams (sub: Pugh 80) — D Ritchie, J Burnard. NOTTS COUNTY (4-2-4): D Ward — C Wadde, G Hogg, M Radford, R Walker — S Derry, P Robinson, S Finnian, G Jones (sub: V Adams, 76), S Parnell, P Kennedy. Referee: C Foy.

Preferred draw for Powling

By WALTER GAMMIE

"WHAT about the draw?" Richie Powling, the Sudbury Town manager, was asked after his side battled their hearts out to hold Brighton and Hove Albion on Saturday. "I can't think about that yet," he replied. "We've just got to get over Brighton." Then, the thought took hold. "I'd like to get another home draw." Pause. "The bigger the better." So, when Brentford, at home, came out of the bag, Powling's afternoon was complete.

It was, however, a day of meagre returns for the non-

League contingent against Nationwide League opposition. Four other sides — Northwich Victoria, Farnborough Town, Colwyn Bay and Cheltenham — drew, made on Saturday evening, offered the most immediate rewards to clubs that came through all non-League ties.

Hednesford Town, who won an all-Vauxhall Conference clash with Southport, will relish a trip to Blackpool, of the second division. St Albans City, the Isis League premier

division side, having won at Wisbech Town, will travel to the winners of a replay between Swansea City and Bristol City.

Boston United, of the UniBond League, brought to an end the 11-match unbeaten run enjoyed by Morecambe by thumping the Conference side 3-0 at York Street and will travel to Chester City.

The incentive of a home tie redolent of Conference days remains for either Farnborough or Barnet, who will meet Wycombe Wanderers. Barnet dragged themselves back to a draw from 2-0 down at Cherrywood Road, thanks to two goals by Sean Devine, despite having Jamie Campbell sent off.

If Cheltenham, of the Dr Martens League, win their replay against Peterborough United — earned by a 6-0 draw at London Road on Saturday — they will travel to Enfield. It at least leaves the door ajar for a non-League side to reach the third round and the arrival of the big boys.

The danger signs appeared in only the fifth minute when Butler, the Newcastle goalkeeper, put some of Ferdinand's help to good use to block a powerful shot from Jones that should have been comfortably dispatched.

Newcastle, playing in Stoke because of police fears about the fitness of their own Lynne Valley stadium to stage the tie, scrapped and hustled as best they could and Burnard,

who, ironically, had made a solitary League appearance for Port Vale against Notts County, used his pace and confidence to unsettle them.

Newcastle, though, always looked vulnerable to County's bold strategy of starting with a 4-2-4 formation and were run ragged on the flanks. Burnard gave them false hope a minute after half-time when a long-range shot brought the best out of Ward, the County goalkeeper, but then their legs began to tire.

Two minutes later, a deep cross from Finnian, the County right winger, found Kennedy, the left winger, unmarked at the back post and he headed down and beyond Butler. County, who were met with

Sudbury content to earn second chance

Sudbury Town ... 0
Brighton ... 0

By WALTER GAMMIE

HOLDING a Football League club to a draw after finally reaching the first round of the FA Cup at the 47th attempt is something to celebrate. So Sudbury Town's players were entitled to their lap of honour round the Priory Stadium on Saturday, even if their opponents were beleaguered Brighton, rock bottom of the Nationwide League, for whom embarrassment has become routine.

As his team-mates disappeared into the throng in front of the changing room, Christian McClean, the tall Sudbury striker, broke away to offer a salute to the last of the departing visiting supporters.

McClean knows what it feels like to be a League player savaged by non-League opposition — by Crawley when he was at Northampton Town, and by Kettering during his

time at Bristol Rovers. He also felt for the Brighton supporters in their angry mood of uncertainty about the club's future. "They are the heartbeat of a club," he said. "No club will be there without them."

Sudbury, of the Dr Martens League, covered and tackled with a will and, through McClean's aerial dominance, Brown's direct running and some incisive bursts by Cheesman, they occasionally roused their supporters.

The best chance, however, fell to Brighton. Minton, sent the ball bouncing off the top of the crossbar, Maskell turned and slipped a shot against the post and Moller, the Sudbury goalkeeper, made splendid saves from Maskell and Munde.

SUDBURY TOWN (3-5-2): S Moller — C Treacy, J Carter, D Robb — R Cheesman, M Adams (sub: S Gosses, 45), N Smith, C Shephard (sub: A French, 45). BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION (3-5-2): N Rust — K McGarragh, M Morris, G Hobson — S Shaw, J Mason, G Parry, J Peake, P McDonald — D Munder (sub: J Bald, 71), C Maskell. Referee: M Bailey.

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FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

HOME	AWAY	GOAL
1 Newcastle	13 5 1 1 18 8	4 0 2 6 6 28 +10
2 Liverpool	12 4 1 0 11 3	4 1 2 11 8 26 +11
3 Arsenal	13 4 2 0 14 4	3 2 2 10 7 25 +13
4 Wimbledon	13 4 2 1 16 10	3 1 2 6 5 24 +9
5 Chelsea	13 3 2 1 10 7	3 3 1 12 11 23 +4
6 Man Utd	13 4 2 1 13 7	2 2 2 11 12 22 +5
7 Tottenham	13 3 2 2 7 6	3 0 3 7 6 20 +3
8 Everton	12 4 1 2 15 6	1 3 1 4 7 19 +6
9 A Villa	13 4 2 1 10 5	1 1 4 6 8 18 +2
10 Derby	13 3 2 2 8 9	1 3 2 5 7 17 -1
11 Leicester	13 3 0 3 6 9	2 3 2 6 7 17 -4
12 Sheffield Wed	12 3 1 1 6 8	2 1 3 7 11 16 -4
13 West Ham	12 3 1 2 7 9	1 2 4 5 10 15 -5
14 Southampton	13 3 1 1 5 6	2 2 5 7 18 13 -9
15 Middlesbrough	13 2 2 1 11 9	1 2 4 7 14 13 -9
16 Sunderland	13 2 3 1 5 4	1 5 4 12 13 -7
17 Leeds	13 3 0 4 6 9	1 1 4 5 11 13 -9
18 Coventry	13 1 3 2 3 6	0 4 3 4 11 10 -10
19 Blackburn	13 1 2 4 6 9	0 3 5 8 8 -6
20 Nottm F	12 0 3 3 3 9	1 2 3 7 11 8 -10

HOME	AWAY	GOAL
1 Bolton	18 8 2 0 23 7	3 3 2 17 18 38 (40)
2 Palace	18 5 2 1 19 5	4 5 1 22 10 34 (41)
3 Norwich	18 4 3 0 17 13	5 1 3 11 16 33 (38)
4 Barnsley	17 4 3 2 16 10	4 3 1 14 12 30 (30)
5 Sheff Utd	16 4 3 1 14 8	5 2 2 11 13 31 (28)
6 Oxford Utd	16 6 2 1 18 4	2 2 5 8 11 28 (24)
7 Swindon	17 2 3 1 19 8	1 4 9 11 28 (27)
8 Tranmere	15 5 2 3 20 15	2 3 6 6 26 (26)
9 Walsingham	18 2 3 5 9 12	5 2 2 14 7 26 (23)
10 Stoke	16 4 1 1 11 10	2 5 3 12 17 24 (23)
11 Port Vale	18 4 2 3 12 9	1 1 5 7 18 24 (22)
12 West Brom	18 1 4 4 9 14	4 4 1 14 13 23 (23)
13 Portsmouth	19 4 3 3 14 10	2 2 5 8 15 23 (22)
14 Birmingham	16 5 2 1 15 11	3 4 1 14 14 23 (20)
15 QPR	18 2 3 10 14 3	4 1 7 12 16 22 (21)
16 Huddersfield	17 4 3 2 15 8	1 2 5 7 17 20 (20)
17 Southend	19 4 3 3 16 10	4 5 2 15 20 (20)
18 Charlton	15 4 2 0 10 4	2 0 7 16 10 16 (19)
19 Ipswich	18 2 4 2 12 12	1 3 7 16 18 18 (18)
20 Reading	17 4 2 1 11 9	1 2 7 9 19 19 (20)
21 Man City	17 4 0 3 9 8	2 1 7 10 18 19 (19)
22 Bradford	19 4 2 4 12 18	0 3 6 15 17 (16)
23 Oldham	19 1 3 3 9 16	1 2 3 7 11 16 (16)
24 Grimsby	18 2 2 6 10 20	1 3 4 6 17 14 (19)

HOME	AWAY	GOAL
1 Fulham	18 6 0 3 16 9	7 1 1 14 5 40 (30)
2 Camba Utd	18 6 0 2 15 10	5 2 2 13 11 36 (28)
3 Wigan	18 6 0 1 21 8	3 2 4 12 13 35 (31)
4 Carlisle	18 5 2 2 13 6	3 4 2 10 9 30 (23)
5 Scarbrough	16 4 4 1 14 11	4 1 3 11 16 28 (24)
6 Torquay	18 6 1 2 12 6	2 3 4 10 12 26 (22)
7 Cardiff	17 5 1 3 14 10	3 3 2 7 6 28 (21)
8 Barnet	18 4 4 1 13 7	3 3 3 6 26 18 (21)
9 Lincoln	18 4 1 1 12 9	3 2 3 11 13 26 (21)
10 Chester	17 5 2 1 13 7	3 2 3 4 6 21 (16)
11 Hull	18 2 4 3 8 13	3 3 1 8 6 24 (16)
12 Northampton	18 4 2 3 14 8	3 2 4 10 11 24 (24)
13 Colchester	18 4 1 1 12 8	3 2 3 11 13 26 (21)
14 Rochdale	18 5 2 2 13 6	0 5 4 10 16 22 (23)
15 Doncaster	18 4 1 4 11 10	2 2 5 9 13 21 (20)
16 Mansfield	18 4 1 4 12 12	2 2 5 9 13 21 (20)
17 Swalesea	18 4 3 2 13 8	2 2 5 9 13 21 (18)
18 Wrexham	18 4 3 2 13 8	2 2 5 9 13 21 (18)
19 Walsley	18 4 3 2 13 8	2 2 5 9 13 21 (18)
20 Hartlepool	18 4 3 2 13 8	2 2 5 9 13 21 (18)
21 Lorient	18 4 3 2 13 8	2 2 5 9 13 21 (18)
22 Harrogate	18 4 3 2 13 8	2 2 5 9 13 21 (18)
23 Darlington	18 4 3 2 13 8	2 2 5 9 13 21 (18)
24 Brighton	18 4 3 2 13 8	2 2 5 9 13 21 (15)

HOME	AWAY	GOAL
1 Rangers	12 5 1 0 14 2	4 1 1 14 7 29 +19
2 Celtic	12 5 0 1 16 3	3 2 1 13 8 26 +16
3 Aberdeen	12 4 2 0 15 7	2 2 2 8 7 19 +10
4 Hearts	12 3 1 1 11 10	2 2 2 8 7 19 +10
5 Dunfermline	12 3 2 1 11 10	2 2 2 8 7 19 +10
6 Hibernian	12 2 1 3 5 10	2 2 2 8 7 19 +10
7 Motherwell	12 1 2 3 5 10	2 2 2 8 7 19 +10
8 Dundee Utd	12 1 2 3 5 10	2 2 2 8 7 19 +10
9 Kilmarnock	12 1 2 3 5 10	2 2 2 8 7 19 +10
10 Raith	12 1 2 3 5 10	2 2 2 8 7 19 +10

HOME	AWAY	GOAL
1 Livingston	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
2 Falkirk	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
3 Falkirk	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
4 Clydebank	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
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5 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
6 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
7 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
8 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
9 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
10 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15

HOME	AWAY	GOAL
1 Livingston	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
2 Falkirk	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
3 Falkirk	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
4 Clydebank	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
5 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
6 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
7 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
8 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
9 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
10 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15

HOME	AWAY	GOAL
1 Livingston	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
2 Falkirk	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
3 Falkirk	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
4 Clydebank	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
5 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
6 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
7 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
8 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
9 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15
10 Stirling	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2 26 +15

HOME	AWAY	GOAL
1 Livingston	14 4 0 1 11 2	4 0 1 11 2

David Miller relives the frantic emotional climax to the 1953 FA Cup Final

Matthews fulfils his Wembley destiny



I ever saw

The Duke of Edinburgh, always one to speak his mind, paused in front of the Bolton Wanderers players as they and Blackpool were presented before the start of the FA Cup Final of 1953 at Wembley. "You look like a bunch of pansies," the Duke said. Football-kits was not the item that it is today, and Bolton, in their satin shorts, did indeed look a little unusual, several years ahead of their time.

The final had been awaited with nationwide interest, for this was the third, and presumably last, opportunity for Stanley Matthews, legend of the game and already 38, at last to collect a winner's medal. Twice in the past six years, against Manchester United in 1948 and Newcastle in 1951, he and Blackpool had failed. Would he now achieve the prize that all of England outside the little Lancashire town wanted for him.

The prospects were no better than even. Bolton had a solid, workmanlike team, with dangerous international attackers of the calibre of Holden and Langton on the flanks and Lofthouse, the Lion of Vienna, through the middle. In midfield, they were at least as accomplished and, while Blackpool might have nine of the men who had appeared against Newcastle and Matthews and Mortensen might form a feared right flank, the team had been inconsistent in previous weeks.

The start brought immediate disaster for Blackpool. With barely a minute gone, they were one down as Farm, in goal, was totally deceived by Lofthouse's low, dipping cross shot and the ball squeezed through his grasp and rolled into the net.

Soon, Bolton might have



Ball, the Bolton right back, lunges vainly as Perry, left, applies the finishing touch to the decisive dazzling run from Matthews

been two up, Lofthouse hitting a post, but now came a problem for them. Bell, their left half, tore a muscle, and Bolton compounded the problem with their formation adjustment, no substitutes being permitted. Bell moved to the left wing, Hassall dropped back to wing half, and Langton moved from the wing to inside forward.

In Mortensen's opinion, this blunder helped to cost Bolton the match. "We wouldn't have won but for that," he said. "Because the one thing Stan [Matthews] hated was the opposing left winger tackling back. When Langton moved inside, it left Stan with only Ralph Banks to beat."

Ten minutes before half-time, Blackpool equalised, when Hassall, unthinkingly deflected Mortensen's shot into his own net. Blackpool should have prospered, but instead went 2-1 down through another error by Farm. Slow to come to meet Langton's cross, he allowed Moir to score with a lunging header.

Still worse was to follow for Blackpool's followers. Bolton going 3-1 ahead early in the second half when the limping Bell managed to rise to head home a cross from Holden. There were 20 minutes remaining and Blackpool looked deadbeat.

Yet now there was to follow one of the most emotional transformations of any match in history. With little Taylor supplying an endless stream of passes — the powder-monkey supplying the cannon of distraction — Matthews began to torment Banks to the point where he was racked with cramp. A goal was pulled back as Matthews, floating a long cross as only he could, saw Hansen in goal, groped vainly at the ball which fell on Mortensen's lunging left foot, no more than two yards wide of the left post.

The sound swelling from the crowd was now deafening as Blackpool sustained their onslaught against a stricken team. Bolton seemed hypno-

tised by the poise of Matthews on the ball... and still did nothing to reshape their defence, their limbs frozen by the spell of the magic winger.

With barely a minute remaining, Blackpool drew level, after gaining a free kick a couple of yards outside the penalty area on the left. "I was tripped, that was my contribution to victory," Jackie

The move and pass which defined the man and his career

Mudie, the Scotland international, said. Mortensen, with a tiny gap at which to aim, scored with a sensational rising shot. Up in the grandstand, Mrs Vallance, Matthews' mother-in-law, had fainted for the second time.

Those of us who had been praying so fervently and so long for Blackpool felt we now had relief with the arrival of extra time. Not so. We were

about to see the climax to surpass every other that I have been fortunate to witness, not excluding England's World Cup victory.

There have, unarguably, been goals that were technically more exceptional than that which was about to earn a special page in history.

What makes recollection imperishable was the drama of the recovery that preceded it, the proximity to the full-time whistle, the swell of affection from the crowd for a single player, and the classic manner in which he applied the final execution: a move and a pass which defined the man and his entire career.

As Bolton kicked off, Matthews calmly clapped his hands three times, exalting one last effort. Before Bolton could draw breath, the ball was fed once more by Taylor to the right, Matthews, slowing to a walk a few yards outside the penalty area, drew Banks and Barrass, the centre halves. Then, for the ten

thousandth time in his 21-year career, he accelerated round the outside. Away on the other flank, Perry was moving towards the penalty spot.

As Matthews cut in towards the goal area, it seemed that he would pull the ball back to his Mortensen, his England colleague. Instead, after a glance, he dragged the ball back further still, into the path of the waiting Perry.

Crowded in the penalty area were eight Bolton players, and none could do a thing: Ball and Hansen on the goal line, Banks, Barrass and Hassall all trying to recover from Matthews' sprint. Holden, Wheeler and Bell vainly trying to close down Perry and Mortensen. With one swing of his right foot, Perry swept the ball into the corner. The roar was now fit to loosen the girders from the rooftop. Mrs Vallance was in a permanent faint.

Kevin McCarron recalls a memorable night from 1973

Kevin McCarron recalls a memorable night from 1973

Frantic derby cries out for class of Wilkins

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

MIDDLE age presents a man with some bleak views. Ray Wilkins may never have guessed that, at 40, he would be peering out at an Edinburgh derby match from the substitutes' bench. There was no room for him in Hibernian's starting line-up against Heart of Midlothian at Tynecastle on Saturday. His place had gone to a trialist.

Tall and blond though he is, Juha Ripa, a Finn, from FC Jazz, slipped through the afternoon unnoticed. The frantic and goalless game generally eluded him, although it was pardonable that a contest between the two Edinburgh clubs should be out of reach for an incomer.

There may have been some indignity in finding himself supplanted by Ripa, but any pique felt by Wilkins cannot have lasted for long.

As the match progressed, Wilkins, the former England midfielder player, surely felt relieved that he had been spared some barbarous action. Naming Wilkins as a substitute was similar to slapping a preservation order on an elegant old building.

The inactivity of the fixture was not just a matter of boorish tackling. John Hughes, the Hibernian captain and centre half, was sent off in the fiftieth minute after brushing his hand against the head of Stéphane Paille, the centre forward, in what was little more than a gesture intended to signal the end of a minor disagreement.

Hughes had already been booked, and even a second yellow card would have been extremely severe, but John Rowbottom, the referee, consulted a linesman and simply produced the red. One might be sanctimonious and chide the defender for raising his hand in any manner whatsoever, but had Paille not dropped to the ground, the incident would surely have been given no attention.

For Hibernian, with their marked tendency to lose to Hearts, a draw achieved at Tynecastle with ten men is a stirring result. Jim Leighton made one magnificent save, scooping Paille's 20-yarder away from the top corner of the net, and, late in the game, defending became a matter of desperate blocking rather

than cool strategy, but Hibernian deserved a point.

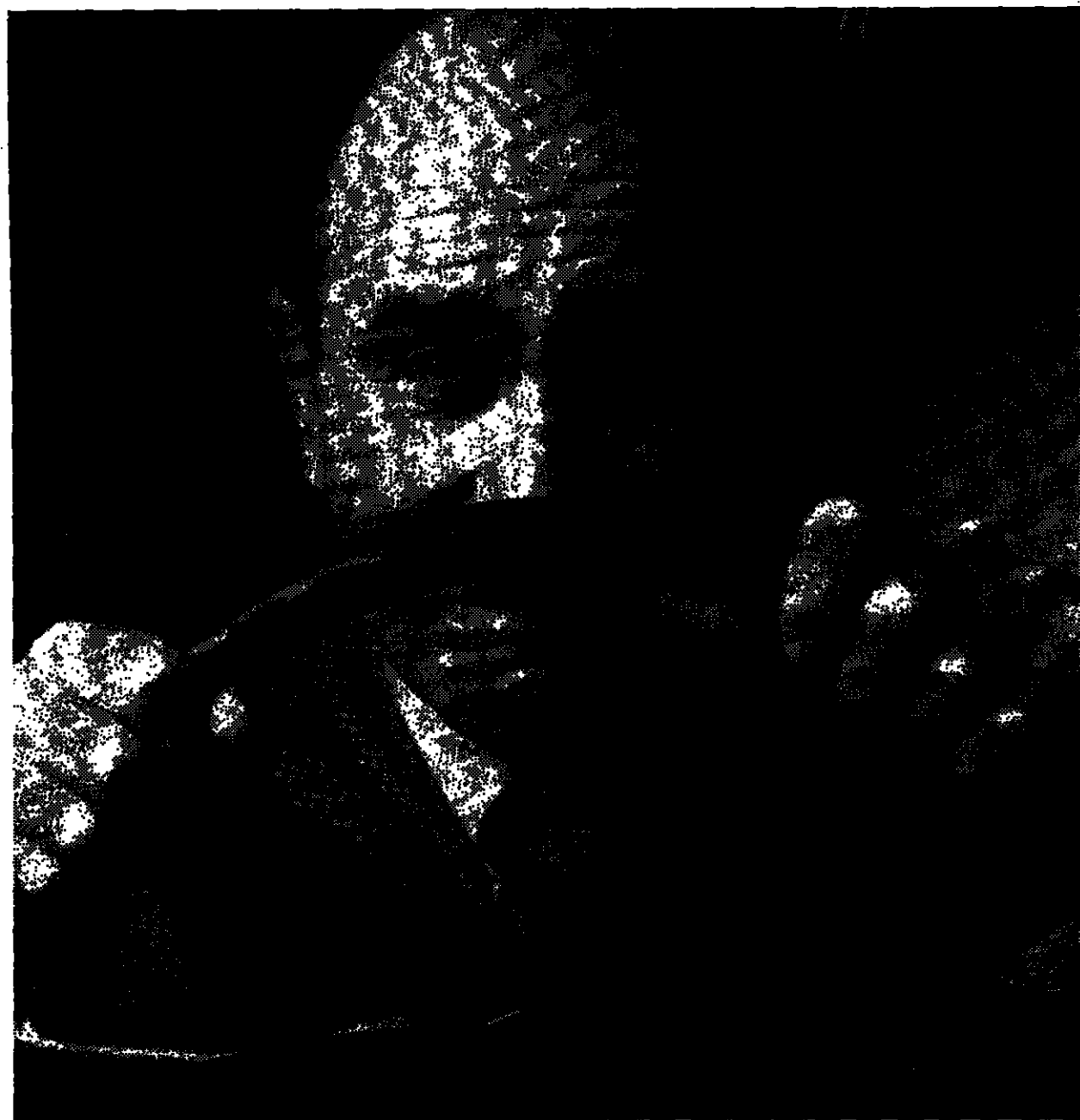
The strife of derby football, however, is not the greatest struggle that the Edinburgh clubs face. In differing ways, their experiences illustrate the inhospitable circumstances in which every club in Scottish football, with the exception of the Old Firm, now finds itself. Hearts, of course, do not look as if they require condolences.

On Sunday, they will play in the Coca-Cola Cup final, against Rangers, and Jim Jeffries, the manager, has given them the air of a bustling, progressive club.

Paille, a former French footballer of the year, brings to the forward line a technique and sophistication that galvanises the men around him. So long as minds remain fixed on the field, everything about Hearts is encouraging, but grinding practicalities cannot be ignored and the club finances continue to be alarming.

The expenditure on wages and signing-on fees for costly foreigners must cause alarm at a time when the club is thought to be at least £5 million in debt. After Bosman, it is difficult to sell players for large sums and a comparatively small company like Hearts can scarcely hope to trade its way back to financial health by any other means.

Hibernian, on the other hand, are suffering from the effects of prudence. Tom Farmer, their owner, saved the club from extinction, but has little interest in football and does not attend matches. Nor is he inclined to squander his fortune on expensive players. Accordingly, Hibernian abides by its budget, but also frustrates supporters with its modest signings. When it comes to bragging about your club, a sound balance sheet is of little help in taunting rivals.



It could relieve the suffering of 10 million motorists.

Over 10 million motorists are suffering from some or all of the symptoms caused by the build-up of carbon deposits in their engines, including: poor starting, running on, pinkish, lumpy running, general sluggishness and lack of power.

Yet, a regular injection of Texaco CleanSystem[®] petrol could help prevent these complaints. In fact, as long as it's used regularly, Texaco CleanSystem[®] is guaranteed to help keep your engine running smoothly. And the AA agree that

CleanSystem[®] can aid prevention and help cure the problems of carbon deposits.

TEXACO
CleanSystem[®]

A new lease of life for your engine.

SNOOKER

Lean look to White's Christmas

BY PHIL YATES

SURPRISE results are normally at a premium in the United Kingdom championship, but at Preston on Saturday night, three members of the world's elite top 16 were eliminated, another found himself in desperate trouble and the title-holder had several anxious moments before reaching the last 32.

Peter Ebdon, the world No 3, slipped to his fourth consecutive defeat when he was edged out 9-8 by Karl Broughton, of Grimsby, in the first round. Broughton understandably described the win as the best of his career.

So, heading up the country's new Premier League must rank as one of the toughest jobs in world football, but Trevor Phillips says that he could not resist the challenge. He has already had his fair share of dealing with football's darker side when he was at the Football Association. He had to deflect the public outcry over the ticketing problems that preceded the European championship finals.

He arrived in South Africa in August, a month before the start of the season, to find that the league had no plans, no infrastructure and no office. There was also no money, so the first task was to generate sponsorship to ensure that the league would start.

To date, Phillips has raised around 30 million rand (about \$4 million), about half of which has been distributed to the clubs with the rest used for the league's own costs. The league is close to signing a number of other deals, including a 2 million rand link with Coca-Cola. However, while the commercial side is taking shape, the organisational side still lags behind.

South African football is still suffering from the legacy of apartheid. Under the old regime, football was labelled a "black" game, and was marginalised while government investment flowed into the "white" sports of rugby and cricket. At the same time, the crumbling football structure was hijacked by a series

South Africa taps football tradition

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



of leaders who ran it along the lines of a personal fiefdom.

As a consequence, Phillips is trying to usher in a new era for football at the same time as the South African courts are exposing the corrupt core of the old regime.

Not surprisingly, then, relations between the three main football bodies — the Premier League, the old National League (equivalent to the Football League) and Saffa — are tense. There is a distinct lack of co-ordination between the organisations and almost no contact with the grass roots of the game. Phillips wants to establish a football pyramid, similar to that in England.

Television also remains a problem. In a country where most of the population can barely afford terrestrial coverage, satellite is not an option. So, the league is stuck with the existing, rather amateur, coverage of the state television service.

The league is acting as a magnet to top players from other countries, attracted by high wages of £2,000 a month, but lesser players are lucky to receive any pay and Phillips wants the players to form a union so that they can improve their contracts.

The long-term aim is to turn South Africa into a world football power. Phillips would like the country to prepare for a bid for the 2010 World Cup — as much as to drive development forward as an end in itself. Years of isolation have so far prevented South Africa from joining Cameroon and Nigeria as world-class African teams, but for all its problems, the country has 35 million followers and a great football tradition just waiting to be tapped.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

ROWING

Rare defeat for Haining on Thames

BY MIKE ROSEWELL

ROWING CORRESPONDENT

PETER HAINING, the Great Britain Olympic sculler, experienced his first head-to-head defeat over the Putney to Mortlake course for three years on Saturday. Haining, already a triple world lightweight champion and a triple World Sculls winner, was striving for his third Thames world sculling title, but failed by 14 seconds over the 4½-mile course, for which he holds the record.

His conqueror was Merlin Vervoorn, 21, the 6ft 7in Dutchman who won the Diamond Sculls at Henley this year before going on to win bronze at the world under-23 championships. After a two-day Tideway acclimatisation course under the coaching of Bill Mason, of Imperial College, Vervoorn, on the Surrey station, and Haining, on Midlex, were neck and neck to the Mile.

Vervoorn was more than a length ahead by Hammer-smith Bridge, but, to the credit of Haining, who pushed hard along Chiswick Eyer, and at the Crossing, he could never increase his lead in spite of a 14 kilogram weight advantage.

Vervoorn, clearly a top prospect who is considering a post-graduate course at Imperial College, said: "It was a tough race, but I don't like losing to lightweighters." Haining, 34, said: "He was too strong for me in the middle."

Vervoorn's victory books him an entry next year. Haining, who was instrumental in setting up the event, will have to qualify.

The inaugural Women's Challenge race was won by Guin Batten, the Olympic finalist, whose 20 kilogram advantage was too much for Sue Appelboom, the world lightweight finalist in 1995 and 1996. International opposition failed to materialise when Maria Brandin, of Sweden, an Olympic finalist and Henley winner, had skiing commitments for her national B team.

Cheltenham's turf husbandry gives grounds for concern

Dark, threatening clouds obscured Cleve Hill and hovered no more than 100 yards above the head of Philip Arkwright, clerk of the course at Cheltenham, as he prepared to inspect the three tracks in his care at 9.30am yesterday. An omen, perhaps.

As he pokes the turf with his walking stick, there are those within racing keen to prod him between the shoulder blades with something far sharper over the state of the courses at jump racing's headquarters. He knows the whippers. "What depresses me is the fact people tell you this ground is rubbish. It breaks my heart," he said as we walked over the lush covering of grass on the Old Course.

And yet the evidence of the three-day meeting and the problems encountered at the Festival meeting last March, suggest there is, at the very least, a case to answer and the excuses being put forward by Arkwright and the Cheltenham board over the condition of the courses are beginning to wear thin.

Let us examine the facts. Only 103 runners took part in the 18 races at Prestbury Park during the Murphy's meeting, and ten of those contests attracted five horses or less. A pitiful turnout for such a prestigious meeting. Arkwright admits the ground, officially described as good to firm, contributed to the small fields by deterring the owners and trainers of some horses. Surely, the critics insist, it would have been possible to water one of the three courses sufficiently during September and October to ensure proper, good ground. "We did that two years ago on the Park course," Arkwright responded, quick as a flash, "and look what happened. A wet winter meant the course, which links in with

parts of the New and Old courses, was virtually unraceable by the time of the Festival and caused all kinds of problems.

"I am nervous of overdoing the watering at this time of year. If the weather turns bad, you are storing up trouble for the spring. This is very heavy clay ground." The reduced rainfall this year, ten inches below the 50-year average according to Richard Linley,

RICHARD EVANS



Racing Commentary

the senior inspector of courses, increases the chances of this winter being particularly wet. As a result, with the ground almost firm, Arkwright did not turn on the taps until eight days before the Murphy's meeting. An inch and a half of water proved a mixed blessing. The jar may have been removed but parts of the course resembled a skating rink as horses slipped and in some cases — notably Dublin Flyer — slipped to the ground on Friday and Saturday. By yesterday, substantial overnight rain had made the course better. "I would call this

perfect ground, so in the end we were only half an inch out. I don't think that is a hanging offence."

Maybe, but the watering argument is only a side issue. The real concern at Cheltenham is the level of turf management. At the Festival in March, trainers and jockeys were agitated at the state of the racecourse, with several bare patches and an inadequate covering of grass. Yet again, Arkwright has an excuse. "At the heart of the problem was the very dry summer we had in 1995, which removed all the bottom out of the grass. In the autumn we had some rain which produced a good cover of grass in September and October. I was misled into thinking we had overcome the problem, but the heavy frosts in December and January showed the new growth was cosmetic."

This autumn, Arkwright is again confident the sward covered Prestbury Park will withstand the demands placed upon it. "I think we are going in with the best possible chance. I could not be happier with the position we are in."

Others do not share his confidence. As reported in these columns in August, an independent turf consultant suggested the entire racecourse needs reseeded because of the worn out and poor strains of grass. His view is shared by trainers like David Nicholson. The next few months will determine whether the clouds lift from above Arkwright's head. Lord Vestey and his Cheltenham colleagues have achieved wonders in recent years, but new grandstands, museums and improved facilities are worthless if owners and trainers have lost trust in the racecourse itself. They are in severe danger of losing that trust.



Time Enough jumps the last safely on his way to victory at Cheltenham yesterday

The Grey Monk ghosts into Hennessy picture

By JULIAN MUSCAT

CHASING'S young bloods are poised to storm the establishment's castle after a weekend which saw them generate all the headlines. First- and second-season novices dominated the finish to the Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham, and The Grey Monk took a stranglehold on the Hennessy Gold Cup after his convincing defeat of Jodami at Ayr.

Like his stablemate, One Man, The Grey Monk has ghosted his way into the public eye. He has advanced from relative obscurity to outright favouritism for the Newbury showpiece a week on Saturday, when he will defend a seven-race unbeaten sequence over fences. His trainer, Gordon Richards, had no hesitation in rubber-stamping The Grey Monk's credentials.

The horse has always been a good operator. "He wouldn't quit as well as One Man but he is a real galloper. I suppose he is as good as One Man was two years ago." Those are poignant words, for One Man reduced the 1994 Hennessy to a procession when carrying the minimum ten stone. A 4lb penalty for his Ayr win takes The Grey Monk's Hennessy weight up to 10st 2lb.

Coral offers a best-priced 3-1 against The Grey Monk. 5-1 Sunny Bay, 8-1 Billygoat Gruff, 10-1 Addington Boy and 12-1 bar. All these horses are embarking on their second season over fences — with the exception of Sunny Bay, who warms up for Hennessy over an inadequate 2½ miles at Kempton on Wednesday.

On the same afternoon, Sunny Bay's stablemate, Could Be Better, prefaces his attempt to win consecu-

tive runnings of the Hennessy in the Edward Haunter Memorial Chase at Ayr. The youth theme also prevailed at Cheltenham, on Saturday, when Challenger Du Luc fought off the renewed assault of Strong Promise — himself a raw novice — in the Murphy's Gold Cup over an extended 2½ miles. The slippery surface served to blunt the winning prospects of Addington Boy, Barton Bank

and the favourite, Big Matt — but at least they completed the course. Dublin Flyer lost his legs and slipped rounding the bend before the third-last fence. Fortunately, both the horse and his rider, Brendan Powell, returned unharmed. Challenger Du Luc is now likely to join the Hennessy cast. "The race is two weeks away, but we will have to think seriously about it," Martin Pipe, his trainer, said yesterday. "The trip [3¼ miles] will not be a problem — the horse won over three miles last season."

Nap: TELlicherry (3.05 Plumpton)
Next best: Cedric Town (2.25 Leicester)

Brian Harding, who rode Addington Boy, will have had time to savour views of Cleve Hill when partnering CHASING'S young bloods are poised to storm the establishment's castle after a weekend which saw them generate all the headlines. First- and second-season novices dominated the finish to the Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham, and The Grey Monk took a stranglehold on the Hennessy Gold Cup after his convincing defeat of Jodami at Ayr.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
12.15 Ballard Lady, 12.45 Indiana, 1.15 Supreme Mainroom, 1.45 Polar Profile, 2.15 Merciless Cop, 2.45 Domino Flyer, 3.15 Patskin, 3.45 Onefourseven.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

12.15 TOSD FILLES HANDICAP

(Div 1: £2,048; 6f) (16 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

12.45 CHAD LIMITED STAKES

(Div 1: £2,048; 1m) (16 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

1.15 MOZAMBIQUE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN

STAKES (2-7-0; £2,338; 6f) (16 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
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1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

1.45 TOSD FILLES HANDICAP

(Div 1: £2,048; 6f) (15 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
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1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

2.15 ANGOLA NURSERY HANDICAP

(2-7-0; £3,048; 7f) (12 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
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1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

2.45 CHAD LIMITED STAKES

(Div 1: £2,048; 1m) (16 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

3.15 ZAMBIA SELLING STAKES

(£2,055; 1m 3f) (16 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
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1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

3.45 GENERAL HANDICAP

(£2,853; 2m) (11 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

COURSE SPECIALISTS

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

JUMP LEADERS

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

PLUMPTON

THUNDERER
1.05 Fawley Flyer, 1.35 Cedric, 2.05 Dawn Chance, 2.35 Dantes Cavalier, 3.05 AMBER SPARK (nap), 3.35 Rito.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES) SIS

1.05 RUNNER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING

HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,309; 2m 4f) (7 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

1.35 SIR EMILE LUTLER CHALLENGE CUP

HANDICAP CHASE (£3,098; 2m 5f) (12 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

2.05 GEORGE RIPLEY MEMORIAL CHALLENGE

TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,786; 2m) (3 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S MEETINGS

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

2.35 KNIGHT INTERNATIONAL NATIONAL HUNT

NOVICES HURDLE (£2,616; 2m 4f) (12 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

3.05 TRANS WORLD EXHIBITIONS MAIDEN CHASE

(£2,866; 2m 5f) (14 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
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3.35 PEASE POTAGE NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,364; 2m 10f) (8 runners)

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2.55 LAIDRONES STEVE WALSH TESTIMONIAL HANDICAP HURDLE

(£5,892; 2m) (8 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
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3.25 DESBOROUGH MARES ONLY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,427; 2m 4f 110yd) (10 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
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3.55 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,054; 2m 4f 110yd) (7 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
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THUNDERER	
12.55 Darnayden	2.25 Imperial Vintage
1.25 Griffin's Girl	2.35 Netherby
1.55 Coolteen Hero	3.55 Barford Sovereign

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM, FIRM IN PLACES (CHASE COURSE); GOOD, GOOD TO SOFT IN STRAIGHT (HURDLES)	
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING	SIS

12.55 STOUTONOVES HURDLE

(£2,825; 2m) (8 runners)

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1.25 JUNIOR SELLING HURDLE

(£2,352; 2m) (22 runners)

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1.55 LEICESTER NOVICES CHASE

(£3,342; 2m 10f) (8 runners)

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2.25 MIDLAND HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,655; 3m) (4 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
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1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

2.55 LAIDRONES STEVE WALSH TESTIMONIAL HANDICAP HURDLE

(£5,892; 2m) (8 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
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1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

3.55 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,054; 2m 4f 110yd) (7 runners)

1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11
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COURSE SPECIALISTS

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1000 QUEEN'S CHECK 20 (10.0) M J Dine 3-10-0 S Williams 11

Gloucester flattered by Orrell's failings

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

It is little wonder that Peter Williams, the Orrell director

SOCIETIES **Orrill:** Penzly govt; **Highmough:** Gloucester; **Travis:** Summit 22, Benton, Windo, Lumsden, Peters. **Conversions:** Maplelot 5. **Pansky:** govt 3.

ORRILL: R. Highmough; P. Clayton, L. Highmough, H. Hedges; S. Shivers. **S. Cook:** M. Worraly, M. Scott, P. Turner, P. Angeles, P. Reese, C. Cusani, T. Wood, R. Nelson. **Hesper** replaced by P. Horrocks (40mm).

ORRILL: C. Gessler; C. Catling; M. Peters, A. Sevenmott, M. Roberts, A. Lumsden; M. Maplelot, S. Benton, A. Windo, P. Greening, A. Deacon, P. Glanville, P. Fidler, D. Sims, N. Carter, E. Pearce. **Greening** replaced by C. Yip (68); **Benton** replaced by L. Beck (68).

Reference: E. Morrison (Bristol).

Campese, the scorer of an Australia XV try, leads another attack in the 13-point victory over Ulster at Ravenhill. Photograph: Brian Little

By Karl Johnston

Charles Muir, the referee, who had not exactly won over Ulster hearts and minds when he had charge of their Heineken Cup match against Neath at The Gnuil last month, returned midway through the first half on Saturday, taking over from Ken McCartney, his injured compatriot, but, this time around, Ulster really could have no complaints. Despite that initial set-back just after half-time, Muir effectively balanced the books by awarding

Crotty, 22, is one of four new players promoted from the A team that beat South Africa A at Donnybrook, a quartet that inevitably includes Keith Wood at hooker though not Eric Elwood, the experienced stand-off half who played well against the South Africans.

Though an ankle injury prevented him from playing for Oxford University on Saturday, Niall Hogan retains both the scrum-half berth and captaincy, but he has a new partner in Paul Burke, the Bristol stand-off displacing David Humphreys. Rob Henderson, the London Irish centre, can regard himself as unlucky to be replaced after only one appearance by Mark McCall, while the experi-

Pulcher, return after missing the game against the Samoans, but Paddy Johns has to make way in the back row for **Anthony Foley**.

IRELAND: J E Staples (Harlequins); J A Topping (Bathams); J C Bell (Northampton); C M McGill (Dungannon); D Croxall (Ulster); J J O'Connell (Ulster); J Hoggins (Oxford University, captain); N J Poppewell (Newcastle); K G M Wood (Harlequins); P S Wallace (Saracens); D S C Cordery (Bristol); G M Pulcher (London Irish); W V Davidson (London Irish); W D McWhirre (Worcester); A G Foley (Shannon); J J O'Connell (Ulster); J F O'Connell (Ulster); Humphreys (London Irish); S C McHardy (Garryowen); P S Johns (Saracens); D Hurley (Moseley); A T H Clifton (Northampton).

[illegible]

THE Irish selectorial axe fell yesterday, after the 40-25 defeat by Western Samoa last Tuesday (David Handley writes). There are eight changes for the meeting with Australia at Lansdowne Road on Saturday, though only one newcomer in Dominic Crotty, the Garryowen full back who will play on the left wing.

Crotty, 22, is one of four players promoted from the A team that beat South Africa A at Donnybrook, a quartet that inevitably includes Keith Wood at hooker though not Eric Elwood, the experienced stand-off half who played well against the South Africans.

and for Connacht against the Australians the next day. Wood's dynamic running, a feature of his season with Harlequins, restores him for a seventh cap.

Though an ankle injury prevented him from playing for Oxford University on Saturday, Niall Hogan retains both the scrum-half berth and captaincy, but he has a new partner in Paul Burke, the Bristol stand-off displacing David Humphreys. Rob Henderson, the London Irish centre, can regard himself as unlucky to be replaced after only one appearance by Mark McCall, while the experi-

enced Jim Staples returns at full back, ahead of Simon Mason.

Two forwards, Nick Poppellwell and Gabriel Fulcher, return after missing the game against the Semans, but Paddy Johns has to make way in the back row for Anthony Foley.

IRELAND: J E Staples (Weston); J A Topping (Ballymoss), J C Bell (Northampton), C M McNeil (Dunstable), D Croft (Hemel Hempstead), G Searns (Wokingham), H Hogan (Oxford University captain), N P Poppellwell (Newcastle), K G M Wood (Reading), R Garsdale (Gloucester), R Conway (Exeter), G M Fulcher (London), J W Davidson (London), W D Justice (Milton Keynes), J Gifford (Leeds), J F Frost (Ipswich), G Humphreys (London Irish), S C McIvor (Surrey), P S Johns (Gloucester), H Davies (Cardiff), A T H Garsdale (Northampton).

SCORERS: United: Yip, Topping, penalty; Australia: Lint, P. Jones, goalkeepers; Liang (Q), Austine, Yip, Thew, Rios (2), Bates, Campese, penalty by Conwell; Rovers (4): Penalty goal: Bustin, Kirov, Topping (Ballymore), M. Field (Glasgow), M. McCall (Dunfermline), J. Cunningham (Dunfermline); S. Laing (Pomferrado), J. McCall (Pomferrado), J. McCall (Pomferrado), R. Ritchie (Ballymore), G. Leung (Dunfermline), S. Duncan (Malcolm), G. Longwell (Ballymore), P. John (Ballymore), J. McCall (Malcolm), penalty S. Hafferty (Barrhead).

AUSTRALIA XV: M. Barker (New South Wales); D. Campese (NSW); D. Henderson (NSW); J. Lint (NSW); P. Jones (NSW); R. Australian Capital Territory; D. Brown (ACT); G. Brown (ACT); R. Humphrey (NSW); J. McCall (NSW); J. McCall (NSW); M. Field (NSW); M. McCall (NSW); J. Cunningham (Queensland, captain); D. Wilson (Queensland); D. Munn (NSW). Wilson replaced by J. McCall (NSW).

Referee: K. McCannay (Scottish, replaced by C. Muir, Scotland, 27).

BY PETER BILLS

All Blacks by wind

**untroubled
of change**

**Union che
print of of**

BY ALISON KERVIN

Full marks in all respects — London Irish played like a team with confidence, determination and commitment. They defended splendidly despite being outclassed in the backs, and fine use of their forwards enabled them to drive upfield. Yet it was Wasps who had the best of the

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danny baker
'the best of'

to spend after Christmas. It's our way of saying Merry Christmas
and giving you an even happier New Year.

all you need

MEGASTORES

entertainment

blow down the beer tent.

No matter. Two smaller marquees were brought in to replace the big one that had been blown away by the wind and normal service was resumed. In this world cup for veterans, certain services are indispensable.

On the pitch at New Zealand Sports Club, New Zealand extended their domination of this tournament for players of 35 and over who have won representation in the British Isles being Celtic Barbarians 10-8.

All the Black Aces have reached the final seven times, losing only once. They were again led by Andy Haden, a sprightly 46, who was renewing his second-row partnership with his fellow-country-

men, Keith Robertson, of Scotland, and Mark Ring, of Wales.

There was no score in the first half and the second was delayed by 15 minutes while an ambulance removed Craig Green, the former Canterbury centre, from the touchline with a broken collar-bone.

It was the All Blacks who finally made the breakthrough. Kieran Crowley sent in Terry Wright in the corner, and New Zealand quickly doubled their lead when Rob Penney drove low.

The Barbarians might have buckled, but held firm and managed a late consolation try through Shane Connor.

writes). "We want to ensure that our proposed agreement is acceptable to the board," Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said.

His speaking is in the nature of a briefing as the union seeks to find a conclusion to its long-standing dispute with the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc). The RFU does not want to achieve a negotiated peace, only to find that the freedom offered the clubs in organising competition and assisting in sponsorship is contrary to international rules.

Delegates from Ireland and Wales are likely to be consulted over a document more broadly dealing with future

agreement that guarantees income only for three years.

"We want to be clear that only the RFU can be in control of the game in this country and not representatives from the leading clubs," Cliff Brittle, the chairman of the RFU executive committee, said, though the clubs themselves do not seek such privilege. However, they do want to be sure that IRB rules do not infringe civil law in Europe, particularly as regards the rights of players and their employers.

Meanwhile, the Argentinean party arrives in London today for a seven-match tour, fresh from a 44-21 defeat by South Africa in the 1995 World Cup.

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RUGBY UNION: CONCERN FOR ROWELL BEFORE INTERNATIONAL WITH ITALY AS ENGLISH CHAMPIONS FAIL TO TAKE CONTROL

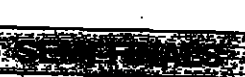
Cardiff end Bath's European ambition

Cardiff 22
Bath 19

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

AS A player, Terry Holmes was not given to flights of fancy and nor is he now that he is the Cardiff coach. When he says that Cardiff club rugby, not English, offers the benchmark for Europe, he has fact on his side. Now Bath, the first half of their season over, can only nod in agreement.

So tumultuous a match as that at the Arms Park on Saturday tends to make disputes over divisional rugby seem arcane. This is the nearest that the northern hemisphere can come to the atmosphere of international rugby and, for passion and heartache, it matches those other thrilling occasions that the Heineken Cup has produced this season — Cardiff's trip to Toulouse, Harlequins at Brive and Wasps at Munster.



Leicester v Toulouse
Brive v Cardiff
Ties to be played on
January 4 and 5, 1997

Robert Howley, the outstanding Cardiff scrum half, pronounced it the biggest club game of his career, though now he and his team-mates must face what will appear to be the entire town in the semi-final at Brive over the weekend of January 5-6. Mike Hall recalled the day, in 1993, when Wales beat England next door in the national stadium while grown men in the stands embraced their neighbours and refreshed their vocal chords in the hymns and arias with which the national side was once so familiar.

Earlier in the week, Bob Dwyer, the Leicester coach, had asked what anyone saw in the Brive v Harlequins pool game. Had he been there, he would not have asked; likewise, the quarter-final on Saturday may have been less than satisfactory in technical terms, but sport does not always require technical excellence — it seeks colour, drama, the nerve-endling and, under a dull, damp sky, Cardiff provided it.

To put it simply, Cardiff won because they had a



Ojomoh, the Bath No 8, refuses to surrender possession to Wakeford, left, and Humphreys, right, of Cardiff, at the Arms Park on Saturday

lineout, control and vision in midfield and a goal-kicker — two goal-kickers, once Lee Jarvis took the field. Bath may have thought that they had one of these three elements, but they had only limited faith in their lineout and kicker. As it turned out, they did not have the midfield control either, which will have concerned Jack Rowell, the watching England coach, who has placed his trust in the Bath backs for the game with Italy on Saturday.

True, Mike Catt converted five of his eight goal-attempts, but the three penalty kicks that he missed proved costly; a fourth, that he was not even given the chance to miss, may have been vital.

In added time and three points adrift, Bath were awarded their 21st penalty of

the match (against Cardiff's nine), 40 metres from goal, and Sanders took a quick tap. John Hall, the Bath director of rugby, defended the decision, but any side with a first-grade kicker — Cardiff, for example — would surely have felt compelled to go for the draw and extra time rather than try to find a way through the well-organised Cardiff defence.

"Sometimes, in the heat of games, you lose your shape, but Jonathan Davies made sure we kept ours and we blocked Bath out very well behind," Holmes said.

Even so, Bath, in a rampant first half, failed to play the game for which they had trained. When given the hard option whether to kick or pass, their midfield backs kicked and gave Cardiff the chance to counter and that was all

against the ambitious, fluid style that their coaches demand.

Nor will Brian Ashton, the Bath coach, make any apology for it. He is utterly committed to the broad game, which is why Jason Robinson won the place at full back over the goal-kicking Jon Callard and kept it even when Jon Sleightholme withdrew on the morning of the match with a stomach ailment and the opportunity arose to move Robinson to the wing.

It would be foolish to suggest crisis in the Bath camp, even though the Heineken Cup was the one that they had set their heart on. They have too many good players — to whom will be added Federico Mendez next week and, possibly, Steve Atherton, the Natal lock, next month — but the key

to their rebuffs in Wales, and in the domestic league, comes in Hall's admission that they no longer nail games down when they should. Professionalism may have helped others to approach the Bath standards, but buying players in has robbed Bath of that fierce family loyalty and self-reliance that was their trade mark.

Their gamble over Nicol's fitness collapsed after only four minutes, when a damaged hamstring forced him off, and an exchange of penalty goals gave Cardiff the interval lead of 9-6. Catt restored Bath's lead before Cardiff's excellent try, a lineout preceding Taylor's drive into the heart of the defence before Howley and Hall set up Jonathan Davies on a big blind-side, Walker

hitting the angle just right and eluding the cover.

Then came Jarvis, the teenager replacing Justin Thomas, whose broken nose and concussion kept him overnight in hospital. With all the insouciance of youth, he banged over two long-range penalty goals to give Cardiff a nine-point lead. Though Bath worked Nathan Thomas over, it had taken them too long and their European dream was over.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Try: Walker. Conversion: J. Davies. Penalty goals: J. Davies (3). Bath: Try: Thomas. Conversion: J. Davies. Penalty goals: J. Davies (4).
CARDIFF: J. Davies, M. Walker, M. Hall, J. Davies, S. Hall, J. Thomas, R. Howley, A. Lewis, J. Harries, D. Young, M. Bennett, J. Wakeford, D. Jones, J. Rogers, H. Taylor. Bath: J. Robinson, H. Paul, P. de Garmby, J. Guscott, A. Adebayo, M. Catt, A. Hogg, H. Hogg, N. Thomas, M. Thomas, M. Thomas. Replacements: J. Davies (1), J. Davies (2), J. Davies (3), J. Davies (4), J. Davies (5), J. Davies (6), J. Davies (7), J. Davies (8), J. Davies (9), J. Davies (10), J. Davies (11), J. Davies (12), J. Davies (13), J. Davies (14), J. Davies (15), J. Davies (16), J. Davies (17), J. Davies (18), J. Davies (19), J. Davies (20), J. Davies (21), J. Davies (22), J. Davies (23), J. Davies (24), J. Davies (25), J. Davies (26), J. Davies (27), J. Davies (28), J. Davies (29), J. Davies (30), J. Davies (31), J. Davies (32), J. Davies (33), J. Davies (34), J. Davies (35), J. Davies (36), J. Davies (37), J. Davies (38), J. Davies (39), J. Davies (40), J. Davies (41), J. Davies (42), J. Davies (43), J. 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ICE SKATING

Excellence rewarded by retention of title

By JOHN HENNESSY

THE final day of the British figure skating championships in Guildford on Saturday was rescued from otherwise unrelieved mediocrity by the performance of Marika Humphreys and Philip Askeew in retaining their ice dance title. Even there, a doubt persists. Did their music comply with the rule that it must bear some relationship to ballroom practice? Many think not and that may explain why the judges' average mark was below 5.2.

Two judges, indeed, were dismissive. Mary Parry, a woman of impressive experience on the bench, went as low as 4.8 and 5.0. Janet Coton, a woman of impressive performance on the ice (she and Warren Maxwell preceded Torvill and Dean as British champions), went even lower with two marks of 4.8.

The judges, alas, are not allowed to reveal their secrets, but they can look back to the Skate Canada competition a week earlier for corroboration. Humphreys and Askeew were placed ninth in Kitchener and led to understand that their music, Saint-Saëns's *Danse Macabre*, was unsuitable.

Humphreys, 19, staunchly defends her case, maintaining that, if you concentrate, you can detect the waltz rhythm. Nevertheless, they are having the piece "enhanced", to emphasise the tempo. This should be ready for their next competition, at Gelsenkirchen, Germany, next weekend.

The music apart, spectators cannot fail to be excited by the performance. It is full of fast, intricate footwork, leaning on Humphreys's excellence as a figure skater pure and simple, and stunning lifts, depending heavily on Askeew's strength, coupled with his partner's confidence in him. At one point, she is swinging pendulum-fashion upside down with her head not far from the ice.

Humphreys and Askeew have skated together for only 15 months and Askeew has now dispelled any suspicion that he was not a strong enough skater to partner her.

John Goodbody visits a school with a small roll but a big reputation



Yardy, left, and Davies relax during a break in training for the national age-group championships at the end of this month. Photograph: Gill Allen

Peniel earn place at top of table

What does a school do to succeed at sport when it has restricted facilities and only 150 pupils ranging in age from two to 18? Victories in inter-school fixtures in team games will clearly be difficult to sustain with such limited numbers, while many individual activities still demand extensive facilities.

If the school is the Peniel Academy, in Brentwood, Essex, then the focus is put on table tennis, an activity that does not require lavish equipment and in which the sexes can easily play alongside one another.

As a result, this tiny private school is pre-eminent in English table tennis, a sport that is one of the most widely played in the world, particularly in the Far East.

Peniel hold four of the eight English schools titles and, in Hannah Yardy (under-14) and

Tracy Davies (under-17), Peniel possess two players who head the national rankings in their age-groups. In the under-17 world school championships in Israel last year, Peniel finished a highly commendable third.

Dr Michael Reid, the principal, said: "We are not selective on scholastic, sporting ability or ability to pay, but because we believe in the full development of a child, we do think that sport should have an important place in the school. Because of our size, we have had to concentrate on sports that are individual and non-contact."

Pupils are certainly not chosen on their potential for table tennis. Established in 1981 by the parents of the Peniel Pentecostal Church, a religious order that believes in miracles, the academy began with only a couple of table tennis tables. The transforma-



tion to a centre of excellence came in 1988 when Nicky Jarvis, the present England captain and then national coach, visited the school after being asked to give a coaching session. He was so attracted by the enthusiasm for the game at Peniel that his links have become stronger over the years. He now coaches there 24 hours a week and accompanies the pupils to tourna-

ments. "We have 76 players in the school," Jarvis said. "All of them have their own goals and individual training programmes. We can give individual training as well as group sessions."

The academy has attracted leading internationals such as Matthew Syed and Lisa Lomas to train alongside the pupils at the centre of excellence.

Both Yardy, 14 two days ago, and Davies, 16, are now training for the national championships in their age-groups at Stratford-on-Avon on November 30 and December 1.

Davies is described by Jarvis as competitively very strong. "She excels under pressure," he said. "All she needs to do is practise."

At present, she is trying to improve a particular aspect of her game. "I am concentrating on my forehand top spin down

the middle of the table," she said. "I am trying to get in the right position to play the shot well."

Both girls started playing the game at Peniel when they were nine. "After a certain age, virtually everyone here plays table tennis," Yardy said. She also enjoys swimming, hockey, badminton and tennis, but the facilities for all these sports are limited.

The academy recently had planning permission for a sports hall turned down by Brentwood council on the grounds that the school is on greenbelt land, a decision that Reid found hard to fathom.

"We need the facilities to help the pupils to develop their physique and all-round fitness," Reid said. "We get some sports injuries because pupils are using certain muscles and not others. Besides, what we have done in table tennis, we could do in other sports."

Davies misses out as putt goes astray

LAURA DAVIES missed a chance to force a play-off in the Gold Coast yesterday when she missed a 16-foot eagle putt on the 18th green and then Jane Crocker, "but Crafty showed loads of nerve to hole her putt." Crocker had a final round of 68, five under par, to finish with a total of 273, 19 under, a stroke ahead of Davies and Jane Geddes, of the United States.

Jumbo Ozaki enjoyed a comfortable third successive victory in the Dunlop Phoenix Tournament at Miyazaki yesterday. Ozaki, 49, finished on 277, seven under par, three shots ahead of Joe, his younger brother, and Tom Watson, of the United States. Lee Westwood, of England, and Costantino Rocca, of Italy, shared sixth place on 282.

Steelers finish bottom

ICE HOCKEY: Sheffield Steelers finished bottom of their semi-final group at the European Cup in Hammenlinna, Finland, after losing 5-4 yesterday to Polymir Novopolotsk, the champions of Belarus. The Steelers went two goals behind early in the first period, but hit back through Ron Shandra and Glenn Mulvenna. Polymir added three goals before Mulvenna netted his second and Tony Hand scored in the final period. On Saturday, the Steelers picked up their only point in the tournament in a surprise 2-2 draw with HPK Hammenlinna, the host club.

McDermott takes glory

GYMNASTICS: Lee McDermott, of Woking, became the British champion and Dominic Brindle, of Leeds, the silver medal-winner in a close finish to the British championships at Nottingham on Saturday. McDermott attacked the high bar like a true champion and his mark of 9.35pts gave him the title by 0.3pts over Brindle. Kanukay Jackson, of Harrow, retained the junior title while John Mutch, of Harington, kept the under-16 trophy.

German lifts Eden Cup

FENCING: Felix Reichling, the world No 1, from Goppingen, won the Eden Cup, the British round of the under-20 men's foil World Cup, at Crystal Palace on Saturday, defeating Andrej Zanytsev, of Poland, 15-12. James Beavers, of Great Britain, finished fifth, improving on his eighth place of last year. He lost 15-4 in the quarter-finals to Loch Aberly, of France. Sam Johnson, another Briton, was surprisingly beaten 15-12 by Andrea Frischard, of Austria.

Let off for Queensland

RUGBY UNION: Queensland overcame the effects of conceding 23 first-half penalties to win 28-5 yesterday against Saracens, playing as a Michael Lynagh XV. Saracens failed to exploit their advantage and led only by a Tony Copsey try at half-time. In the second half, Queensland enjoyed a revival, with tries by Ryan Constable, Barry Lea, Tyrone Mandrusiak and Mark Gabry.

Crash course to victory

MOTOR SPORT: Ralph Firman, the British champion, won the Macan grand prix by 4.2 sec yesterday even though his Dallara Honda-Mugen was involved in the crash that forced an early end to the second leg of the accident-marred Formula Three race. Firman hit a barrier while negotiating one of the circuit's most treacherous bends and Andre Couto, of Portugal, ran into him.

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ATHLETICS

Marathon hopefuls getting aid

By DAVID POWELL

ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Flora London Marathon and British Athletic Federation announced a project yesterday to improve elite marathon running in Great Britain. A mixed national squad, funded by the London Marathon, BAF and the Foundation for Sports and the Arts, is to be set up immediately.

Britain has enjoyed considerable success in the big city marathons this year, with wins for Liz McColgan, in London, and Paul Evans and Marian Sutton, in Chicago. However, it is 12 years since a Briton won an Olympic world or European medal.

This scheme should help to reduce the number of athletes who decline championship selection because they feel either that it may be too hot or are thinking about their next commercial marathon. Malcolm Arnold, the BAF head coach, says that any athlete joining the squad should regard it as their "absolute responsibility" to accept selection for championships.

The squad will comprise up to 20 athletes and ten coaches and will be headed by Bruce Tulloh, the coach to Richard Newkirk, the 1993 World Cup champion.

The £60,000 funding for the first year will cover warm weather and altitude training, competition support and medical help. Steve Brace, now retired through injury, having represented Britain in the Olympic marathon in Atlanta, said that the scheme "alleviates some of the problems and worries I had".

He recalled: "When I came back from the Auckland Commonwealth Games, I had to run Paris within six weeks to pay the bills. I had to do two paying races before I could do a championship."

The squad is not only for proven marathon runners but also for track athletes with potential at that distance. It is designed more for developing runners than the likes of McColgan — who finished third in Tokyo yesterday — and Evans.

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.30 unless stated

* denotes all-Sheet match

FA Caring Premiership

Sheffield Wed v Nottingham Forest (8.0)

ICE HOCKEY: Premier division: Dag-

erham and Redbridge v Dulwich. First

division: Croydon v Merton. Third

division: Tring v Epsom and Ewell.

UNBORN LEAGUE: Premier division:

Hyde v Blyth Spartans. Cup: Second

round: Ashton United v Gales.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION:

League Cup: Luton v Norwich (7.0).

FA YOUTH CUP: First round: Rotherham

v Barnsley. Everton v Nuneaton. Walsall

v Bromsgrove.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools

Fif Film Trophy: Third round: Eastleigh

v Alton. (at Epsom). F2: FA Premier

League Trophy: Under-19: Sturminster

Newmarket (at Ludlow Town). Under-

16: Lichfield v Nottingham. (at

Holmes Park, 7.0).

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: International match: England

v United States (at Hilton Hotel, London).

BADMINTON: International match: Eng-

land v China (at Mansfield).

RACING: Southwell (AW, 1.15): Long-

leaves (12.55); Plumpton (1.05).

REAL TENNIS: British Open (at Queen's

Club).

SNOOKER: UK championship (at

Preston).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

UEFA CUP: Third round, first leg: FC Metz

v Newcastle (8.0).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division:

Coventry v Walsley (7.45). Second

division: Swindon (7.45). Manchester City

v Huddersfield (7.45). Oxford United

v Bolton (7.45). Second division: Burn-

mouth v Swindon (7.45). * Bristol Rovers

v Burnley. Crewe v Bristol City. Notts County

v Barnsley. Luton v Stevenage (7.45).

Preston v Chesterfield (7.45).

Preston v Luton (7.45). Stockport

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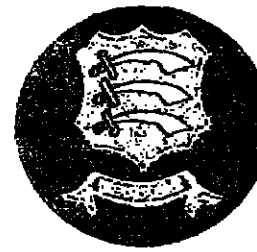
County-by-county guide to the 1997 cricket season



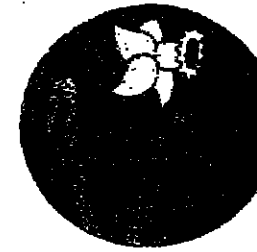
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APRIL	
15	Cambridge Univ (Fc)
23	Kent (BAC)
27	Kent (Ava)
28	Minor Counties (BH)
30	Lancashire (BH)
MAY	
2	Yorkshire (BH)
4	Lancashire (Ava)
5	Worcestershire (BH)
7	Surrey (BAC)
11	Surrey (Ava)
12	Warwickshire (BH)
14	Leicestershire (BH)
14	Leicestershire (Ava)
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25	Nottinghamshire (Ava)
31	Australians (Tour, 3 days)
JUNE	
4	Hampshire (BAC)
8	Hampshire (Ava)
12	Warwickshire (BAC)
15	Warwickshire (Ava)
15	Sussex (BAC)
22	Sussex (Ava)
24	Lincolnshire (NWT)
28	Essex (BAC)
29	Essex (Ava)
JULY	
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13	Yorkshire (Ava)
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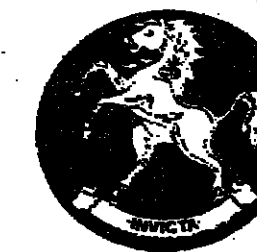
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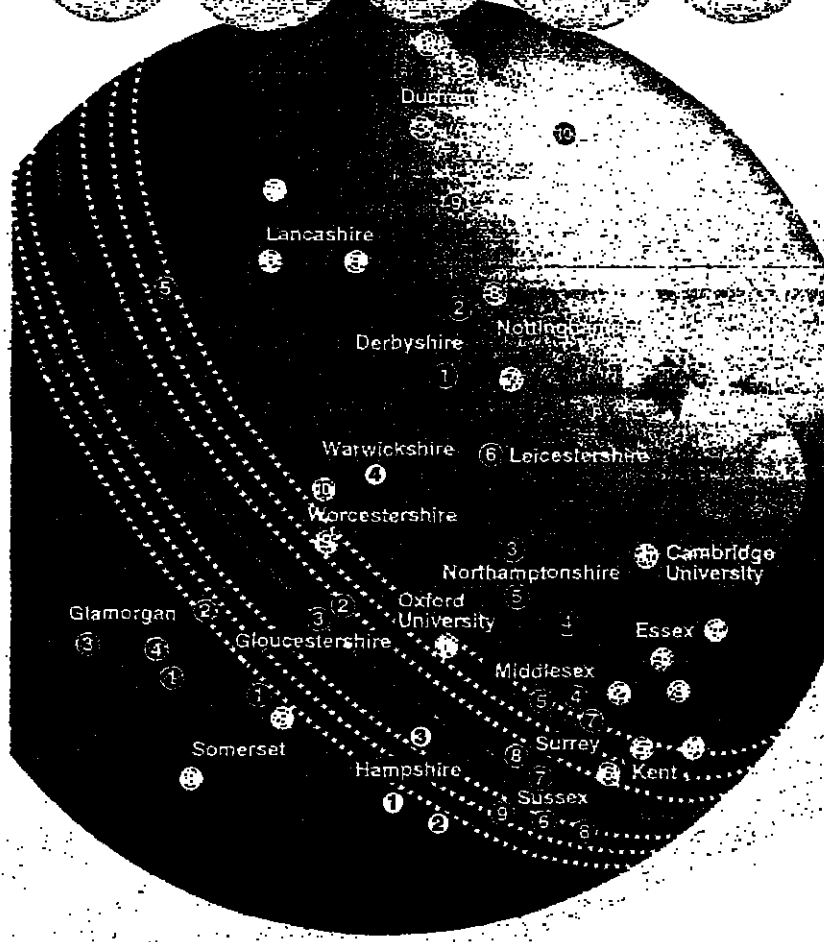
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27	Durham (BAC)
28	Yorkshire (BH)
30	Derbyshire (BH)
MAY	
2	Warwickshire (BH)
4	Derbyshire (Ava)
5	British Univ (BH)
7	Gloucestershire (BH)
12	Worcestershire (BH)
14	Nottinghamshire (BAC)
18	Nottinghamshire (Ava)
21	Sussex (BAC)
25	Sussex (Ava)
29	Nottinghamshire (BAC)
JUNE	
1	Nottinghamshire (Ava)
4	Warwickshire (Ava)
8	Warwickshire (BAC)
12	Lancashire (BAC)
15	Lancashire (Ava)
15	Kent (BAC)
18	Durham (BAC)
22	Durham (Ava)
24	Glamorgan (Ava)
28	Cambridge Univ (Fc)
JULY	
2	Northamptonshire (BAC)
6	Northamptonshire (Ava)
16	Leicestershire (BAC)
20	Leicestershire (Ava)
23	Leicestershire (BAC)
27	Hampshire (BAC)
28	Worcestershire (Ava)
AUGUST	
3	Worcestershire (Ava)
6	Essex (BAC)
10	Essex (Ava)
16	Australians (Tour, 3 days)
20	Somerset (BAC)
24	Somerset (Ava)
27	Hampshire (BAC)
31	Hampshire (Ava)
SEPTEMBER	
2	Essex (BAC)
6	Warwickshire (BAC)
10	Warwickshire (Ava)
14	Derbyshire (BAC)
18	Derbyshire (Ava)
22	Gloucestershire (Ava)
26	Gloucestershire (BAC)
30	Yorkshire (Ava)

KEY TO COMPETITIONS: BAC: Britannic Assurance Championship (4 days), BH: Benson and Hedges Cup (1 day), NWT: NatWest Trophy (1 day), Ava: Ava Life League (1 day), Tour: Tour matches (1, 3 or 4 days), Fc: Other first-class matches (3 days unless stated).

LEICESTERSHIRE	
APRIL	
18	Cambridge Univ (Fc)
23	Gloucestershire (BAC)
27	Gloucestershire (Ava)
28	Scotland (BH)
30	Nottinghamshire (BH)
MAY	
5	Durham (BH)
7	Worcestershire (BAC)
11	Worcestershire (Ava)
12	Northamptonshire (BH)
14	Hampshire (BAC)
14	Hampshire (Ava)
21	Surrey (BAC)
25	Surrey (Ava)
29	Lancashire (BAC)
JUNE	
1	Lancashire (Ava)
4	Leicestershire (BAC)
8	Leicestershire (Ava)
14	Australians (Tour, 3 days)
18	Somerset (BAC)
20	Somerset (Ava)
24	Devon (NWT)
28	Warwickshire (BAC)
29	Warwickshire (Ava)
JULY	
2	Yorkshire (BAC)
6	Yorkshire (Ava)
16	Kent (BAC)
20	Kent (Ava)
23	Nottinghamshire (BAC)
27	Nottinghamshire (Ava)
31	Essex (BAC)
AUGUST	
3	Essex (Ava)
6	Sussex (BAC)
10	Sussex (Ava)
20	Derbyshire (BAC)
24	Derbyshire (Ava)
27	Glamorgan (BAC)
31	Glamorgan (Ava)
SEPTEMBER	
7	Durham (Ava)
10	Northamptonshire (BAC)
14	Northamptonshire (Ava)
18	Durham (BAC)



MIDDLESEX	
1	Lord's
2	Uxbridge
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	
1	Northampton
2	Luton
3	Millon Keynes
SURREY	
1	Trent Bridge
2	Woking
SUSSEX	
1	Taunton
2	Bath
SURREY	
1	The Oval
2	Guildford
SUSSEX	
1	Hove
2	Horsham
3	Eastbourne
4	Arundel
WARWICKSHIRE	
1	Edgbaston
WORCESTERSHIRE	
1	Worcester
2	Kidderminster
YORKSHIRE	

The complete fixture-list for next summer

UNE

7-BURNING ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
 Derby: Derbyshire v Somerset
 Cheshamstead: Essex v Wiltshire
 Budek: Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire
 Portsmouth: Hampshire v Kent
 Old Trafford: Lancashire v Yorkshire
 Leicestershire: Leicestershire v Northamptonshire
 Northampton: Northamptonshire v Durham
 Howe: Sussex v Surrey
 Worcester: Worcestershire v Middlesex

WOMEN'S MATCH
 Hinkley: England v South Africa
 Budek: Gloucestershire v Somerset

8-NATWEST UNDER-18 MATCH (first test)
 * Canterbury: England v Zimbabwe (four days)

9-WOMEN'S MATCH
 Milton Keynes: England v South Africa
 (Both one-day internationals)

11-AXA LEAGUE
 Derby: Derbyshire v Somerset
 Cheshamstead: Essex v Wiltshire
 Budek: Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire
 Portsmouth: Hampshire v Kent
 Old Trafford: Lancashire v Yorkshire
 Leicestershire: Leicestershire v Northamptonshire
 Northampton: Northamptonshire v Durham
 Howe: Sussex v Surrey
 Worcester: Worcestershire v Middlesex

SEPTEMBER

2-BURNING ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
 Derby: Derbyshire v Northamptonshire
 Cheshamstead: Essex v Wiltshire
 Canterbury: Kent v Gloucestershire
 Old Trafford: Lancashire v Essex
 Trent: Derbyshire v Northamptonshire
 Taunton: Somerset v Middlesex
 The Oval: Surrey v Glamorgan
 Headington: Oxfordshire v Worcestershire

6-NATWEST TROPHY
 LORD'S: FINAL

7-AXA LEAGUE
 Derby: Derbyshire v Northamptonshire
 Cheshamstead: Essex v Wiltshire
 Old Trafford: Lancashire v Essex
 Leicestershire: Leicestershire v Durham
 Trent: Derbyshire v Northamptonshire
 Taunton: Somerset v Middlesex
 The Oval: Surrey v Glamorgan
 Headington: Oxfordshire v Gloucestershire

8-B&B HOGGY TROPHY (one day)
 Final

10-BURNING ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
 Derby: Derbyshire v Somerset
 Cardiff: Glamorgan v Essex

shire v W
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shire v M

THE WORCESTER V LANCASHIRE
 Worcester: Gloucestershire
 Worcester; Gloucestershire
 Worcester; Worcestershire v Derbyshire
 Worcester; Yorkshire v Kent

14-15 A-LEAGUE
 Chester; Leicestershire
 Cardiff; Glamorgan v Essex
 Southampton; Hampshire v Sussex
 Kent; Middlesex v Nottinghamshire
 Northampton; Nottinghamshire v
 Leicestershire
 The Oval; Surrey v Lancashire
 Edgbaston; Warwickshire v Gloucestershire
 Worcester; Worcestershire v Derbyshire
 Headingley; Yorkshire v Kent

18-BANTHAM ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
 Worcester; Gloucestershire
 v Chesham; Essex v Middlesex
 v Bristol; Gloucestershire v Lancashire
 v Warwickshire; Lancashire v Worcestershire
 Canterbury; Kent v Surrey
 v Leicester; Worcestershire v Durham
 v Totton; Middlesex v Hampshire
 v Howe; Sussex v Nottinghamshire
 v Edgbaston; Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire

* match includes Sunday play

Other matches at Lord's

July 18; MCC v MCC School
 July 19; MCC School v National Association of
 Young Cricketers
 July 17-22: Young Cricketers v Cornwall
 July 17-25: MCC v Ireland
 Aug 22: MCC Trophy Final; Counties final
 Aug 23: MCC Trophy v Hampshire v Essex
 Aug 31; Alliance v Leicester Gloucestershire v
 champions v MCC

To be arranged: Don v Harrow; MCC v Wiles

JULY

27-AVIA LEAGUE
 Chester: Cheshire; Darlington: Glamorgan
 Chelmsford: Essex; Worcestershire: Cheshire
 Cheltenham: Gloucestershire; Durham
 Southampton: Hampshire; Lancashire
 Edgworth: Lancashire; Nottinghamshire
 Lord's: Middlesex; Kent
 Northampton: Northamptonshire; Surrey
 Edgworth: Lancashire; Kent

28-NATWEST TROPHY, quarter-finals
TOUR MATCH
 Cardiff or Southampton: Glamorgan or Hampshire
 vs Pakistan A
 (depending on outcome of NatWest second round)

31-BRITANNIA ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
 Chester-le-Street: Durham; Derbyshire
 Colchester: Essex; Lancashire
 Colwyn Bay: Glamorgan; Nottinghamshire
 Edgworth: Warwickshire; Sussex
 Worcester: Worcestershire; Kent

ther matches at Lord's

July 15: MCC v MCC Schools
July 16: MCC Schools v National Association of
Young Cricketers
July 17: NCA Young Cricketers v Combined
Services
Aug 21-22: MCC v Ireland
Aug 27: MCC Trophy (Minor Counties) final
Aug 29: Abbot Ale club championship final
Aug 31: Alliance & Leicester Gra Village
championship final
To be arranged: Elton v Harrow MCC v Wales

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1036.

Court of Appeal

Law Report November 18 1996

Court of Appeal

Applicant can address adverse matters

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Mohammed Ali Fayed
Regina v Same, Ex parte Ali Fayed
 Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Phillips
 [Judgment November 13]

Although the Home Secretary was not obliged under section 44(2) of the British Nationality Act 1981 to give reasons for refusing an application for naturalisation where the grant of such an application was a matter for his discretion, he was required, before reaching a final decision, to inform an applicant of the nature of any matters weighing against the grant of the application in order to afford the applicant an opportunity of addressing them.

The Court of Appeal so held. Lord Justice Kennedy dissenting, when allowing appeals by Mohammed Ali Fayed and Ali Fayed from Mr Justice Judge who had refused their applications for judicial review of the decisions of the Home Secretary rejecting their applications for naturalisation.

Section 44 provides: "(2) The Secretary of State . . . shall not be required to assign any reason for the grant or refusal of any application under this Act the decision on which is at his discretion; and the decision of the Secretary of State . . . on any such application shall not be subject to appeal to, or review in, any court."

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Rabinder Singh for the first applicant; Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Mark Shaw for the second applicant; Mr Stephen Richards and Mr Stuart Catchpole for the Home Secretary.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS referred to section 6 of and Schedule 1 to the 1981 Act which governed the applicants' naturalisation applications and said that although the Home Secretary had no discretion to grant an application to a person not of good character, a decision refused on that ground was one to which section 44(2) applied. That was accepted by Mr Beloff.

There were other provisions of the Act which gave a person who fulfilled certain conditions an entitlement to be registered as a British citizen, and accordingly section 44(2) did not apply to them. Section 40(6) of the Act, setting out the procedure where the Home Secretary wished to deprive a naturalised citizen of his citizenship, required him to give such a person notice in writing of the grounds of the proposed order and informing him of his right to an inquiry.

The Home Secretary accepted that section 44(2) did not prevent the court exercising its jurisdiction to review a decision on the traditional grounds available on an application for judicial review. The reason for the acceptance of jurisdiction assisted in determining the questions in issue.

His Lordship referred to

Antimatic Ltd v Foreign Compensation Commission ([1990] 2 AC 147) and **Attorney-General v Ryan** ([1980] AC 718). The latter case, to which his Lordship attached great importance in the present cases, was decided and reported before the 1981 Act was passed.

The inference could therefore appropriately be drawn that Parliament was not, in enacting section 44(2) intending by the outer provision to exclude the ability of the court to review a decision of the Home Secretary on the ground, for example, that he had not complied with any requirement of fairness which the Act imposed on him or the express prohibition against discrimination in section 44(1) when considering applications for naturalisation.

First issue
 Would there be any requirement of fairness in the absence of section 44(2), and if so, was it breached? It was obvious that refusal of their applications had damaging implications for the applicants, because of their high public profile, and the damage was the greater because it was not in dispute that they complied with the formal requirements other than that of good character, the relevance of which to the refusal was not known.

The refusal also deprived them of the substantial benefits of citizenship, such as freedom from immigration control, citizenship of the European Union, and its accompanying rights, and the right to vote and stand in parliamentary elections. The decisions of the minister were therefore classic ones which but for section 44(2) would involve an obligation on him to give the applicants an opportunity to be heard before that decision was reached.

The fact that the Home Secretary might refuse an application because he was not satisfied that the applicant fulfilled the rather nebulous requirement of good character or "if [the Home Secretary] thinks fit" underlined the need for an obligation of fairness.

Except where non-compliance with a formal requirement other than that of good character was being ruled on, unless the applicant knew of areas of concern which could result in the application being refused in many cases, and especially the present cases, it would be impossible for him to make out his case.

The result could be grossly unfair. The decision-maker might rely on matters as to which the applicant would have been able to persuade him to take a different view, see *R v Gaming Board for Great Britain, Ex parte Benaim* ([1970] 2 QB 417) and *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Doody* ([1994] 1 AC 531).

The present cases were, therefore, cases where, ignoring section 44(2), the courts would intervene to achieve fairness for the applicants by requiring the minister to identify the areas which were causing

such difficulty in reaching the decision.

Second issue
 What was the effect of section 44(2)?

The fact that section 44 provided that the decision was not to be subject to appeal or review did not affect the obligation of the Home Secretary to be fair or to interfere with the power of the court to ensure that requirements of fairness were met.

That that power had no application to the present case depended alone on the argument that to comply with what would be the normal requirements to inform the applicants of the case they had to meet would be inconsistent with the express prohibition in section 44(2).

That prohibition it was submitted impliedly excluded the requirement to give the applicants and others in the same position the notice which fairness dictated they needed to make an application, and that unless that was the situation the intention of Parliament expressed in section 44(2) would be frustrated.

His Lordship rejected that argument as wholly inconsistent with principles of administrative law.

In summarising his conclusions he said:
 "I suggest that notice need not be given, although that would be unfair, involving attributing to Parliament an intention that it had not expressly stated that a minister should be able to act unfairly in deciding that a person lawfully in the United Kingdom should be refused citizenship without the courts being able to do anything about it."

English law had long attached the greatest importance to the need for fairness to be observed prior to the exercise of a statutory discretion. However, at least until recently, English law had not been so sensitive to the need for reasons to be given for a decision after it had been reached.

So to exclude the need for fairness before a decision was reached because it might give an indication of what the reasons for the decision could be was to reverse the actual position. It involved frustrating the achievement of the more important objective of fairness in reaching a decision in an attempt to protect a lesser objective of possibly disclosing what would be the reasons for the decision.

It would be surprising if it was the implied intention of Parliament that the lack of a requirement to give reasons should have the effect of avoiding the requirement to give notice of a possible ground for refusing an application, since the minister could voluntarily both give notice and reasons, if he chose to do so.

3 In many situations the giving of notice of areas of concern did no more than identify possible rather than actual reasons. Thus as long as the minister sought representations for more than one area of concern the applicant in the absence of reasons would not know

whether any particular area of concern played any part in the refusal of the application.

4 As the minister had a discretion to give the applicant notice he had to exercise it reasonably. If not to give notice would result in unfairness then the discretion could only reasonably be exercised by giving notice. It was already ministerial practice to inform the applicant if one of the preconditions which were discretionary bars to success were not fulfilled.

If that was the practice it was by no means obvious that there was any logical reason for not taking the same course in the areas where the Home Secretary had an even wider discretion when the identity of the issues would be less ascertainable by the applicant.

5 If the Home Secretary was correct, the effect of the restriction on the obligation to give reasons was far reaching indeed. In any readily identifiable situation it would totally exclude the courts' power of review.

6 Section 40(6) was of no assistance in deciding the present issue: the reason for reaching that conclusion was explained by the fact that it involved an inquiry. A procedure which included an inquiry required an express provision.

7 *Attorney-General v Ryan* was highly persuasive authority in favour of the Home Secretary not being relieved of his obligation to be fair by section 44(2), and the case could not be distinguished.

Applying the approach in that case his Lordship said that it did not require the Home Secretary to do more than to identify the subject of his concern in such terms as to enable the applicant to make such submissions as he could.

In some situations that might involve disclosing matters which it was not in the public interest to disclose. If that was the position then the Home Secretary would be relieved from disclosure and it would suffice if he merely indicated that that was the position to the applicant who, if he wished, could challenge the justification for the refusal before the courts.

Referring to the administrative law of giving notice of areas of concern, his Lordship said that administrative convenience could not justify unfairness, but he would emphasise that his remarks were limited to cases where an applicant could in real difficulty in doing himself justice unless the area of concern was identified by notice.

In many cases less complex than the present issues might be obvious, obviating the need for notice.

Third issue
 Was the Home Secretary despite section 44(2) required to give reasons?

The minister was not prohibited by the section from giving reasons. He had a clear discretion to do so. At common law there was no universal obligation to do so. But despite that the present cases were such that, apart from section 44(2), reasons should have been given. However, in the light of the

express prohibition on requiring the Home Secretary to give reasons, the need for reasons was not so essential that fairness could not be achieved without reasons as long as an applicant had been given sufficient information as to the subject matter of the decision to enable him to make such submissions as he wished.

He would therefore reject Mr Beloff's argument on that issue. Until the areas of concern were identified so that it could be ascertained whether the applicants would be in a position to make further representations it would not be possible to say whether an injustice had occurred.

However, justice had not only to be done, but be seen to be done. The applicants had not had the fairness to which they were entitled, and the courts had to be upheld. The Home Secretary's decisions had to be quashed so they could be re-taken in a manner which was fair.

That was the concern of the courts. Parliament having excluded the obligation to be fair, they were not concerned with the merits of the decisions which should be made. That was the concern of the Home Secretary.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY, dissenting, said that the appeals were highly persuasive authority in favour of the Home Secretary not being relieved of his obligation to be fair by section 44(2), and the case could not be distinguished.

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Suing banks in UK over timeshare deal

Jarrett v Barclays Bank plc and Another
Jones v First National Bank plc
First National Bank plc v Peacock
 Before Lord Justice Morritt, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Potter
 [Judgment October 31]

The purchasers of a timeshare property in a foreign country could bring proceedings in England against the bank who had financed the deal claiming damages for misrepresentation and breach of contract by the vendor pursuant to sections 56(2) and 75 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974.

Although the timeshare was a tenancy within article 16 of the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters 1968, the Brussels Convention, set out in Schedule 1 to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, the object of the proceedings against the bank was the finance agreement and therefore the buyers were not required to bring the claim in the country in which the property was situated.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when allowing (i) the appeal of Trevor and Elizabeth Jarrett against the decision of Judge Brandt at Ipswich County Court on April 19, 1995 to strike out their claim against Barclays Bank plc and the Royal Bank of Scotland for want of jurisdiction and (ii) the appeal by Peter and Denise Jones against the striking out of their claim against First National Bank by Judge Hamilton at Liverpool County Court on August 30, 1995.

The appeal by First National Bank against the refusal of Judge Jack QC at Bristol County Court on February 1, 1996 to strike out an action by Judith and Christopher Peacock was dismissed.

Each of the couples had entered agreements to buy annual timeshares in properties in Portugal or Spain using finance provided by the banks. Subsequently they commenced actions against the banks pursuant to sections 56(2) and 75 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 claiming damages for misrepresentation or breach of contract on the part of the vendors.

Article 16 of the Convention provides:
 "The following courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction, regardless of the domicile of the parties, in proceedings which have as their object rights in rem, or tenancies of immovable property, the courts of the contracting state in which the property is situated."

Mr A. John Williams for the Jarretts; Mr Neil Levy for the Joneses and the Peacocks; Mr Sam Neaman for Barclays Bank; Mr Frederick Philpott and Miss Julia Smith for Royal Bank of Scotland; Mr Peter Sayer for First National Bank.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that the issue was whether

proceedings brought in the United Kingdom against a creditor pursuant to sections 56(2) or 75 of the 1974 Act in consequence of misrepresentations or breaches of contract by the supplier to the debtor of timeshares in respect of land in another state party to the Brussels Convention were within the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of that state pursuant to article 16.

The first question was by reference to which system of law did the court determine whether or not the timeshare agreements were tenancies, or the grant of rights in rem in immovable property, within article 16?

In his Lordship's judgment, that question had to be determined by applying to the facts the interpretation placed by the European Court of Justice on the relevant words in article 16.

It was not material to consider whether the timeshare agreements were tenancies or the grant of such rights by the domestic law of Spain or, in the absence of any evidence what that was, by the domestic law of England and Wales.

The second question was whether the timeshare agreements were tenancies or the grant of rights in rem over immovable property.

The question of what was a tenancy for the purposes of article 16 had been considered by the European Court of Justice in *Sanders v Van der Putte* (Case 73/77) [1977] ECR 2383, *Roder v Kornblum* (Case 241/83) [1986] QJ 33 and *Hacker v Europ-Reis* (Case C-280/90) [1992] ECR II 111.

It appeared from a consideration of those cases that although the need for a uniform interpretation of the word "tenancy" had been repeatedly recognised no such interpretation had yet emerged.

However, in the light of the decision in *Roder*, in which a short-term letting was recognised as a tenancy, there was no reason for denying to the agreements in the present cases the status of tenancies within article 16(1).

In each case one party was entitled to the exclusive occupation of immovable property assumed by the contract to be owned by the other for a specified period in return for a sum of money.

The distinction recognised by English law between a grant of a right in rem and a contract for such a grant was not recognised as a valid distinction in relation to tenancies by any principle laid down by the European Court of Justice. Nor, bearing in mind the principles established by that court to be observed in the construction of article 16, was there any logical reason why it should.

Accordingly, the timeshare agreements were tenancies or the grant of rights in rem over immovable property.

The banks submitted that there was then little choice but to conclude that the tenancies were the "object" of the proceedings within article 16(1). The banks

relied on the words in section 75(1) of the 1974 Act conferring on the debtor the like claim against the creditor as the debtor had against the supplier.

They submitted that because the claim against the suppliers, the vendors of the rights, could only be brought in Spain or Portugal then claims against the creditors, the banks, could only be brought there.

Their Lordship did not accept that submission. There was no reason at all for supposing that Parliament intended to enact in relation to the statutory cause of action conferred by section 75, or section 56, any jurisdictional requirement to be observed in proceedings against the supplier.

But his Lordship did not think that the answer lay in a consideration of the statute rather than the Convention and in the principles established by the European Court of Justice in the interpretation of the words "tenancies" which have as their object . . . in article 16.

In the light of the statements of principle in *Reichert v Dresdner Bank AG* (Case C-261/90) [1990] ECR II 27, *Webb v Webb* (Case C-294/92) [1994] ECR I-1069 and *Goebel v Goebel* (Case C-292/93) [1994] ECR 2353 the present actions did not have as their object tenancies of immovable property.

In each action the foundation for the claim against the bank under section 75, and the implied section 56, was the debtor-creditor-supplier agreement. That contract had attached to it the personal statutory rights conferred by the 1974 Act on the debtor.

Of course the enforcement of these statutory rights was connected to or linked with the claims of the consumer against the supplier under the timeshare agreements but it was based on the debtor-creditor-supplier agreement not the timeshare agreement.

Moreover, when one considered the principles established by the European Court of Justice which justified an interpretation sufficient to give effect to the object of article 16(1) but no more, one was driven to the same conclusion.

There was no reason to suppose that it was the intention of the signatories to the Convention that rights conferred by the legislation in one contracting state for the protection of the consumer should, if those rights were linked to a dispute between the consumer and a third party, be enforceable in rem or a tenancy, only be enforced in the courts of another contracting state.

Accordingly, the actions should proceed to trial in the county court in the usual way.

LORD JUSTICE WARD and LORD JUSTICE POTTER agreed.

Solicitors: Carruthers & Co, Cambridge; Kemman Bell & Co, Liverpool and Manchester; Briggs, Shearman & Sterling, Northampton; Manby & Stevens, Wolverhampton; Davis & Co, Harrow.

Average test result valid

Director of Public Prosecutions v Welch
 Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Maurice Kay
 [Judgment November 4]

Where a laboratory had received a sample of blood from the police in order to analyse its alcohol content with a view to prosecution under section 5(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and the sample was split into a number of sub-samples for analysis, it was lawful to use the average result and not necessary to use the lowest result.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing the

prosecution's appeal against the acquittal of Gatshead Justice on May 20, 1996 of Eric Welch of driving after having consumed alcohol in excess of the prescribed limit.

The laboratory used by the police had divided the sample into four and had based its calculation of alcohol content on the average result rather than by using the lowest of the figures, as the defence had contended for.

Mr Roger Elsey for the appellant; the respondent did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE MAURICE KAY said that rounding down decimal

points in blood test results was not a matter of law but a matter of practice. The reduction of results by one per cent of blood was a similar matter.

To build that into a legal principle that the lowest of the samples should be the one used in each case went too far. It was not reasonable for the magistrates to reach the conclusion that they did in taking the lowest analysis.

The appeal was allowed and the case remitted for retrial.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE agreed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Newcastle upon Tyne.

European Law Report

Luxembourg

VAT payable on price paid for voucher

Argos Distributors Ltd v Commissioners of Customs and Excise
 Case C-285/94
 Before G. F. Mancini, President of the Sixth Chamber and Judges C. N. Kakouris and G. Hirsch
 Advocate General N. Fennelly
 [Opinion June 27]

[Judgment October 24]
 Where a supplier of goods sold a voucher to a buyer at a discount and promised subsequently to accept the voucher at its face value in full or part payment of the price of goods purchased by a customer who was not the buyer of the voucher, the consideration represented by the voucher was, for value-added tax purposes, the sum actually received by the supplier on sale of the voucher.

The Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in a reference under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the VAT and Duties Tribunal, London for a preliminary ruling on questions on the interpretation of article 11 of the Sixth Council Directive 608/EEC of May 17, 1977 on the harmonisation of the laws of the member states relating to turnover taxes: common system of value added tax, uniform basis of assessment (OJ 1977 L45 pl).

Argos, a retailer, listed its goods in a catalogue and sold them from its showrooms. Goods purchased could be paid for, wholly or in part, by means of vouchers, which were in the form of printed notes and had various face values, issued and sold by Argos under its own scheme.

The vouchers were sold either at face value or at a discount, the size of the discount depending on the value of the order. The normal discount was 5 per cent of the face value of the vouchers where the order amounted to £500 or more.

The main buyers of the vouchers were companies which distributed

them to their staff or representatives by way of incentive, and financial services companies which resold them to the public at or below face value.

Any customer making a purchase in Argos shops could present a voucher in full or partial payment of the price of the goods up to the face value of the voucher.

The dispute in the proceedings concerned calculation of the VAT payable by Argos on its receipts from sales of goods paid for by means of vouchers.

The commissioners took the view that the face value of the voucher constituted the consideration for the supply of the goods for the purpose of fixing the taxable amount, regardless of whether, when the voucher was initially purchased, the buyer was granted a discount.

Argos contended that it received not the full face value of the vouchers, but only the difference between that figure and the discount granted to the first buyer of them, so that that sum constituted the taxable amount.

One of the questions referred was whether article 11(A)(1)(a) of the Sixth Directive was to be interpreted so that the part of the consideration represented by the voucher was (a) the face value of the voucher or (b) the sum actually obtained by the supplier of the goods from the sale of the voucher.

Article 11(A)(1) provides: "The taxable amount shall be (a) in respect of supplies of goods and services . . . everything which constitutes the consideration which has been or is to be obtained by the supplier from the purchaser, the customer or a third party for such supplies including subsidies directly linked to the price of such supplies."

In its judgment the Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice held:

The transaction at issue was the transaction whereby Argos goods

were bought in one of its shops, the price being paid by the buyer, in whole or in part, by means of a voucher; it was not the previous sale of vouchers by Argos.

According to the court's settled case law, the taxable amount for the supply of goods or services was represented by the consideration actually received for them. That consideration was thus the subjective value, that is, the value actually received in each specific case, and not a value estimated according to objective criteria.

According to the same case law, that consideration, when not consisting of money, had to be capable of being expressed in money.

In the present case, the subjective consideration actually received by Argos for the sale of its goods was constituted wholly or in part by the vouchers presented by the buyer of the goods. Since Argos regarded the vouchers as representing such part of the catalogue price as was equal to its face value, the only question was as to the actual money equivalent of the voucher taken in payment by Argos.

According to the terms of the transaction which involved the initial purchase of the voucher, that voucher, by its nature, was more than a document evidencing the obligation assumed by Argos to accept the voucher, instead of money, at its face value.

In order to ascertain the actual money equivalent accruing to Argos when it took a voucher in payment, regard was to be had only to the transaction which was relevant in that regard, namely the initial transaction comprising the sale of the voucher, at a discount or otherwise.

In view of the nature of that transaction, the actual money equivalent which the voucher represented for Argos, when the latter accepted it in payment, was the sum of money which it received

on the sale of the voucher, namely its face value less any discount allowed.

The fact, as was the case, that the buyer of Argos goods did not receive the real money equivalent of the voucher used by him was irrelevant to the important issue in the case was to determine the actual money equivalent received by Argos when it accepted vouchers in payment for its goods, namely that actual equivalent could constitute the taxable amount.

That interpretation was not invalidated by the fact that, in each transaction, the details of what Argos received as consideration for the supply of goods were unknown.

In that connection, it had to be emphasised that in the present case the burden of proof fell on the supplier. Argos claimed, without having been contradicted, that as a result of the serial number appearing on each voucher, it was possible, when the voucher was presented in a shop, to identify the initial purchaser and to determine any discount allowed to him.

Thus, it was not difficult to ascertain what proportion of Argos's total receipts was represented by the vouchers received.

On those grounds, the Court of Justice ruled:

Article 11(A)(1)(a) of the Sixth Directive was to be interpreted as meaning that, when a supplier had sold a voucher to a buyer at a discount and promised subsequently to accept that voucher at its face value in full or part payment of the price of goods purchased by a customer who was not the buyer of the voucher, the value of the voucher, which was sold by the supplier, the consideration represented by the vouchers was the sum actually received by the supplier on the sale of the voucher.

THE TIMES

TOMORROW

TELEVISION SCHOOLS WEEK

Fabulous audio books for only £1.98 each

Richard Cork reviews the new Paul Nash exhibition at The Imperial War Museum

CHANGING TIMES

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

Ha

Well, we couldn't keep it quiet. We're launching a joint campaign. We'll be starting in November.

DEBTS

TODAY

Interims: Capitol Group, Celsis International, Cogal, European Telecom, Jarvis Porter, London Insurance Market Investment Trust, 600 Group, Thorn. Finals: Diploma, Fibernet Group, Jupiter Extra Income Trust, McLeod Russell Holdings. Economic statistics: UK October public sector borrowing requirement.

TOMORROW

Interims: Baring Stratton Investment Trust, De La Rue, EMI Group, Enterprise Inns, Great Portland Estates, Marsfield Brewery, Mercury European Privatisation, Merchant Retail Group, M&G Income Investment Trust, M&G Recovery Investment Trust, Norcross, Rebus Group, Unigate, Vodafone Group, Whitcroft. Finals: BOC, Cosalt, Euro Disney, Ferraris Group, Glasgow Income Trust, Vision Group.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Bradford Property Trust, Cable and Wireless, Chester Water, CML Microsystems, Courtaulds, Cranwick, Dawson International, F&G, CE Heath, Kalamazoo, MacDonald Hotels, National Power, Northern Foods, Southnews, TBI, Tinsley Robor, Wagon Industrial Holdings. Finals: Century Inns, Granada Group, McCarthy & Stone. Economic statistics: UK October retail sales, UK October provisional M4, UK October building societies monthly figures, UK October major banking groups monthly statement, UK October motor vehicle production, US September trade balance/trade deficit.

THURSDAY

Interims: Babcock International, British Energy, Chloride Group, City of London PR, DBS Management, Gartmore Shared Equity, Glenmorangie, Lowndes Lambert Group, ED&F Man, Powell Duffryn, Safeway, Shires Income Storehouse, UK Land, Wadlington. Finals: Nursing Home Properties, Tomkinsons. Economic statistics: UK q3 provisional GDP, Bundesbank meeting.

FRIDAY

Interims: Break For The Border, Hardy Oil & Gas, Hyder, Osborne & Little. Economic statistics: UK CBI November monthly trends survey, UK q3 provisional capital expenditure, UK q3 provisional stocks, US import/export price indices.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Spotlight on Granada after Forte



Jim Fiffeld, chief executive of the demerged EMI, expected to unveil sharply improved results

GRANADA: Brokers will be paying close attention to full-year figures on Wednesday, the first since the £3.8 billion acquisition of Forte. The City will also want an update on what progress has been made in finding a buyer for the group's chain of 17 hotels acquired along with Forte. Granada is also actively looking for a buyer for its 68 per cent stake in the Savoy Hotel chain.

Pre-tax profit estimates range from £455 million to £468 million, with UBS, the broker, at the top end. That compares with £351 million last time. The figures will contain a 10-month contribution from Forte, but any benefit is expected to be countered by the cost of financing the deal. In fact, earnings will be diluted.

CABLE AND WIRELESS: Under Dick Brown, the new chief executive, it has beefed up its German presence, putting it into position to become the main competitor to Deutsche Telekom after deregulation in 1998, and is merging its Mercury Communications subsidiary with three cable companies. The deal gives it something it lacked in the UK — direct access to the residential consumer. Analysts are calling for interim pre-tax profits of £665 million on Wednesday, up from £636 million.

THORN: Half-year figures this morning will be the first published since the demerger this year. The results are unlikely to contain any surprises after a 12 per cent increase in operating profits recorded during the first quarter. But problems with Crazy George's, its furniture and electrical retail chain, in France, and ongoing litigation in the US will take the edge off the group's performance. UBS, the broker, is looking for pre-tax profits of £78 million, a rise of £6.5 million on the comparative period. The broker is also looking for a first-time payout of 6p.

EMI: Under Jim Fiffeld, chief executive, the other half of the Thorn EMI demerger unveils half-year figures tomorrow that are expected to show a sharply improved performance at first

glance. Pre-tax profits up from £144 million, before exceptional, have been pencilled in, compared with £109 million last time. But trading in the music business remains difficult. In spite of the success of the Beatles anthology. However, there should be scope for a small improvement in the payout, from 7.1p to 8p.

VODAFONE: Shares of the biggest mobile phone company may be poised for a turnaround after lagging the market by some 20 per cent over the past 12 months. Vodafone is hanging onto its

market share in spite of fierce competition from Orange and Cellnet, and its disconnection rate is holding steady at 25 per cent a year. More importantly, analysts think the company may soon float some of its overseas operations and increase its dividend payments. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, is calling for pre-tax profits of £230 million when the company reports its interim results tomorrow, against £208 million previously.

UNIGATE: Half-year figures tomorrow are likely to show a

small downturn. Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, is forecasting around £57 million (£60 million last time). The disposal of its restaurants division could result in a write-back of almost £60 million. But overall trading has been mixed. Shareholders are likely to see a modest dividend increase, to 6.95p.

NORTHERN FOODS: Half-year figures on Wednesday are likely to show the group just about holding its own. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in virtually unchanged at £57 mil-

lion. The dairy milk operation should have matched last year's performance in spite of rising costs, while the disposal of the liquid egg operation should produce an exceptional item of £1 million, down from £57.2 million. Dividend cover should improve in the second half, but is unlikely to benefit shareholders, with an unchanged 3.5p on the cards.

STOREHOUSE: There may be a revival in consumer confidence under way but it is unlikely to be reflected in half-year figures on Thursday. Brokers are looking for pre-tax profits of around £36 million, compared with £33.3 million for the corresponding period. The focus of attention will be on current trading to see if there are any signs of improvement. Price promotions and discounting of up to 20 per cent suggest that sales growth is not all that it should be. Mothercare is likely to be in a similar position, with Children's World still to prove it can cover financing costs this year. There is still scope for an increase in the dividend, from 3p to 3.4p.

SAFeway: Profits during the first six months are likely to have been affected by the share buyback programme. Even so, brokers are looking for pre-tax profits of around £231 million before exceptional, compared with £214 million last time. The buyback also means that earnings will show better growth than profits. Although the group is likely to have been outgunned by Tesco and Sainsbury with the introduction of their loyalty cards, Safeway is certain to have made reasonable progress when it unveils interims on Thursday. Overall sales should show an increase of around 6 per cent. The dividend is likely to rise by 2p, to 4.5p.

NATIONAL POWER: Interim figures on Wednesday will probably show a decline in pre-tax profits from £254 million to £250 million, before exceptional. As in the case of PowerGen, the City's attention will focus on the dividend, where a generous increase from 5.4p to 7.5p is envisaged.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Background to Budget

This week sees the last batch of key economic data before the Budget on November 26. The programme includes snapshots of public borrowing, the consumer sector, money trends and industry, giving a relatively broad look at the economic background to the Chancellor's last Budget judgment before the election.

The week kicks off today with data for public borrowing in October. According to MMS International, the median forecast in the markets is for a negative public sector borrowing requirement — a net repayment — of £2 billion in the month, compared with a requirement of £3.4 billion in September.

The next key figures come on Wednesday, with both retail sales figures and the latest bank and building society lending figures. Retail sales are expected to have risen 0.4 per cent in October, bouncing back from the 0.3 per cent drop recorded in September. This would restore year-on-year growth in sales to 4.1 per cent, from 3.5 per cent the previous month.

The M4 measure of money supply is predicted to have grown 0.5 per cent in October, compared with 0.8 per cent in September. This would bring its annual rate of growth down to 9.6 per cent, from 9.9 per cent. M4's lending component is expected to have strengthened. Net new building society mortgage commitments are predicted to have been marginally stronger in October than September.

Revised figures for third-quarter economic growth are due on Thursday. These are expected to show no change from the preliminary report, with GDP up 0.8 per cent in the quarter and year-on-year growth of 2.3 per cent. The last key piece of information is the *Industrial Trends Survey* from the CBI on Friday.

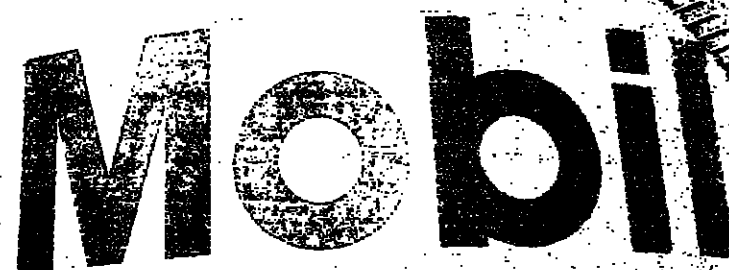
Other events include Tuesday's meeting of European Union budget ministers in Brussels and Thursday's Bundesbank council meeting.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Safeway, Greycoat, Wembley, DCC. The Observer: Buy Kingfisher, Granada. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy WS Atkins, Enterprise Inns, Brockbank Group. Independent on Sunday: Buy Emap, Hold William Cook, Sell House of Fraser. Sunday Business: Buy Cable and Wireless, Vodafone, The Mail on Sunday, Network Technology, Sell Black Arrow.

Have you heard?



Well, we couldn't keep it quiet for long. BP and Mobil are launching a joint venture, all across Europe. We'll be starting in the UK, at the beginning of November. It means bringing every Mobil station under the BP umbrella, which will give us a network of almost 2,000 service stations in the UK alone. With nearly 9,000 stations all across Europe,

it's a massive programme. We're confident that, by the end of '96, it will be complete. It's a huge effort, but we know it's worth it to give our customers a better deal. We believe the combination of Mobil lubricants and BP fuels is an unbeatable offer. We aim to set the standards in friendly, efficient service.

Together with our commitment to excellence and competitive prices, our new network will really be offering the best of both worlds. A further example of this will be Mobil's hugely popular Argos Premier Points scheme. From January 20th it will be offered on every single BP and Mobil forecourt, giving the customer almost twice as many chances to

build up Premier Points. We are building a great partnership here. It's a partnership of two companies who share a vision of the future. We are confident that it won't be long before everyone understands what we mean when we say: **Together, we keep you moving.**



Brian Myerson, scourge of Greycoat and Liberty, is poised to expand his influence with a new \$500 million fund

Myerson and Treger build new war chest

By Jason Nisse

BRIAN MYERSON and Julian Treger, the South African financiers who have been shaking up large sections of British industry, are to widen their sphere of influence by raising a new investment fund, committing as much as \$500 million of fresh money.

The two already have one fund, the offshore-registered UK Active Value, which has raised nearly \$200 million from investors, largely in the US. It has been used for attacks on a variety of British companies that Mr Myerson and Mr Treger consider sleazy.

A new fund is now being raised, with a prospectus ex-

pected to go out to potential investors in the next few weeks. The initial target is to raise about \$300 million by February, although this may be increased to as much as \$500 million if there is strong demand. The new fund will, like the existing one, be a limited partnership investment, which means that its shares will not be quoted and that there is no requirement to publish financial information.

UK Active Value is currently involved in two high-profile situations. It is pressing Greycoat, the property company, to liquidate its portfolio of investments and it has called a special meeting of shareholders

of Kenwood Appliances, which it is pressing to sell itself to a larger partner.

It has also been involved in Signet, whose management it persuaded to sell the company's UK businesses, only for the deal to fall apart, and involved in Scholl, the shoe company.

Before setting up UK Active Value, both Mr Myerson and Mr Treger were involved in well-publicised City deals.

Mr Myerson came to prominence when he pressed Liberty, the owner of the famous Regent Street store, to change its shareholding structure and revamp its management.

Mr Treger, who cut his teeth

working for Lord Rothschild, led the rebel preference shareholders at TVS, the former South Coast TTV franchise holder, who forced a better deal out of an American bidder when it was taken over.

UK Active Value has won a number of admirers in the City who praise its tenacity in bringing shareholder democracy to companies that had not listened to their investors.

However, many companies have complained about UK Active Value's tactics, saying that it does not consult companies before coming up with its proposals and that it has tried to put pressure on them through press leaks.

Time for a return of sense

Notable market moves usually start with a sensible rationale. However, momentum can drive markets to prices that really make no sense. Now is one such time.

There are two oddities on the gilt curve. The first is expectations of short-term rates. London's financial markets are apparently full of people who have a hot flush when the M4 growth rate hits the dizzy heights of 9 per cent and think that 2 to 3 per cent GDP growth is an inflation-threatening boom. However, even they must have difficulty believing what they are currently seeing in the markets.

Does anyone seriously believe that the Chancellor will raise rates in December, let alone by 50 basis points, or that rates will rise by 150 basis points in the next year (as the market has priced)? Most people know in their heart that the inflationary pressures in the UK are as strong as autumn sun is hot.

Second, should gilt yields really be trading 200 basis points over their German counterpart, let alone higher than Italy or Spain? There is no logic to current gilt pricing

GILT-EDGED

in a global context, and it must be corrected.

There is a good chance that these two mis-pricings will soon be corrected. You stand in the way of market momentum at your peril. Yet, the "irrational" element in the pricing will be reversed and the rewards for being in at the turn are significant.

Two factors seem particularly important in changing sentiment on interest rates.

First, we expect a reasonably tough Budget. The majority view of the rate rise was that it was a down-payment for a giveaway Budget. We believe, in contrast, that it is another step towards sensible economic management and is consistent with a sound Budget in the market has priced? Most Budget would convince more investors of the merits of the UK's new policy framework, and cut rate-rise expectations.

Second, the inflation outlook is good. Last week's RPI number looked bad, but more than 0.5 per cent of the 0.6 per cent rise in the annual rate reflected higher motorring and

housing costs. Underlying inflationary pressures were less than expected, as wider margins in household goods — the high-street kitchen area — and non-seasonal foods again failed to materialise.

That 3.3 per cent figure could turn out to be the peak in RPIX, and the Bank's own forecast of 2.5 per cent by this time next year is still within reach. 1997 is set to be a year of gently declining inflation.

The spread anomaly reflects the year's big theme of convergence. However, the market has taken too much convergence for one year and a price will soon be paid. Under any scenario for EMU, gilt yields must narrow against some, or all, European markets.

This may happen quickly. Gilts should be a substantial beneficiary of any panic out of what used to be, and what will again become, the high yields. The German public is simply not ready to share the mark with Italy or Spain.

The end result of more

sensible views on interest rates and spreads will be lower yields across the gilt curve.

Strong support for lower yields will come from the supply arithmetic. The post-Budget auction is for short-dated stock, meaning that we must go a full ten weeks from here before any medium- and long-dated stock is issued.

In fact, the market will have to make do with a meagre £1.5 billion of non-short-contractual paper (the October mini-auction of 2015 stock) in the four months from end-September to end-January. This is very modest compared with the average buying of UK funds of more than £2 billion a month in the first half of the year.

This shortage has been reflected in flattening of the curve between five and 20 years from 100 basis points to barely 50 over the past three months, and in the last month in particular. The benefit will be felt in the months ahead as the overall level of yields. Optimism on funding will rise further in the weeks ahead as the public finances are shown to be on the straight and narrow.

SIMON BRISCOE
Nikko Europe

Majestic bubbles over

MAJESTIC WINE's arrival on AIM this week gave a firm sign of the level of interest in the junior exchange (Fraser Nelson writes). Placed at 160p, they jumped to 204½p, and finished the week at 214p.

Its debut bodes well for the stream of new issues heading for AIM. Fountain Forestry, which manages forests, roads, railways and power pylons, plans to raise £4.5 million there next month, valuing it at £9 million.

The strength of trading in the main exchange can be credited with much of the recent AIM revival, according to market makers. AIM dealers last week reported levels of trading not seen since its summer boom. But this is in the form of strong two-way trade, rather than in share-price jumps. The FT-SE AIM index was unchanged at 1,028.

1996	High	Low	MM cap (million)	Price	Wtd	Yld	P/E
150½	132	145	14.50 AFA Systems	145½	-	2	
138½	109	138	19.70 AMCO Corp	138½		4.5	10.3
118½	87	118½	23.50 AND Int Pub	118½	17		
87½	18	87½	4.65 Abacus Resoil	87½		24.1	
15	14½	15	Abacus Resoil P/P	14½			
161	86½	161	15.80 Active Imaging	86½	3		
210	123	210	25.00 A de Gruchy	210		3.9	15.2
121	7½	121	13.10 Abacus Gold	7½			
85½	56	85½	36.40 Airtel	56	3½		
28½	13	28½	10.30 Albemarle & Bd	27½	1	1.1	14.9
58	32½	58	6.48 Alcyone	37½	2½		
24	4	24	0.25 Alpha Omlition	4			
495	380	495	46.40 Ann St Brewery	495	-	5.1	10.8
1025	885	1025	6.07 Ann St Ov Pl	1025	5	7.9	
121	48	121	57.30 Anson	78½	4		
81	29½	81	1.78 Arin Props	30			
141	68	141	18.80 Ask Central	117½	1		
164½	55	164½	1.16 Athlete Invest	64½			
149½	123	149½	41.10 BATAV Adv Comm	123½	9		
68	60½	68	10.80 Barbican Health	60½	1		
41	7	41	7.55 Beacraft	14			
46	37½	46	3.33 Belcanco	37½			
150	140	150	1.01 Bonanza Leds	140		3.8	9.4
70	70	70	0.34 Bonn Leds Cr Pl	70			
70	41	70	7.72 Brancote Hds	44½			
107	87	107	3.73 Br Bloodstock	87½		2.1	27.3
325	240	325	1.00 Br Bloodstock	240			
135½	116	135½	14.30 CA Courts Hds	116	4½	1.9	18.1
110	109½	110	0.12 CCI Founder Shs	109½			
149½	116	149½	1.12 CCI Hds	116		7.7	20.0
215	165	215	4.86 CCI Hds	165	11½	1.8	13.1
75	55	75	8.21 Caledonian Tst	55		0.8	8.2
98	58	98	12.20 Cardiac	58			
108	88½	108	14.20 Card Clear	88½		1.4	8.5
57½	41	57½	2.84 Casady Bros	41	2	7.2	9.4
195	165	195	4.66 Cavendish W	165		3.3	27.0
123½	65	123½	56.50 Chelton Group	65	1	1.3	15.8
227½	64	227½	15.70 CCI Comm (IV)	64		3.0	13.6
124	108	124	4.20 Chelton Group	108			
125½	53	125½	16.10 Chelsea Village	53	120	14½	
215	120	215	10.40 Chemical Design	120	20		25.5
193	173	193	20.70 Circle Comm	173	180	11	
162½	131	162½	34.00 Circle Comm	131	16	4.5	63.5
110	110	110	0.99 Clin Homes	110			
35	17½	35	7.36 Clin Homes	17½			
510	500	510	12.10 Com de Pln	500		3.0	
86½	57½	86½	4.20 Concurred Tech	57½			
100	85	100	0.24 Conc Tech A Pl	85			
120	65	120	0.19 Conc Tech B Pl	65			
225	215	225	0.17 Conc Tech Cr Pl	215			
44	37	44	8.14 Constar Tst	37		8.9	9.4
160	58	160	27.90 Country Gals	58	15½	6	1.1
120	65	120	4.12 Coun Tech Pl	65		5.9	
109	42½	109	15.30 Cress Int	42½			
345	190	345	4.56 Crown Eyeglasses	190		5.3	7.3
83	37½	83	18.70 Crown Products	37½		5.3	12.5
495	185	495	34.00 DMS Management	185			
36	28½	36	1.42 Dalkett Ints	28½			
80½	60½	80½	4.36 David Glass	60½		7.8	10.9
1950	860	1950	106.80 Deep Sea Leisure	860	1912½	21	16.8
11	11	11	10.20 Deep Sea Leisure	11		2.1	10.6
164½	155½	164½	5.17 Dermaster	155½			
375	305	375	38.30 Dicom	305		0.4	26.3
11	78	11	14.80 Digital Avnrs	78			
87½	60	87½	14.00 Dmtek	60			
121	2½	121	2.69 Drings of Bath	2½			
246	138½	246	7.76 Egypt	138½			
200	38½	200	36.00 Ecol Retail Sys	38½			
116	61	116	15.10 Epic Multimedia	61			
315	305	315	11.40 Enigma Mntng	305			
125	20	125	5.62 Enigma Mntng	20			
475	325	475	9.40 Farlake	325			
53	41	53	2.39 Farwood	41		1.1	9.0
138	107½	138	45.50 Farwood	107½		2.7	9.3
77½	57½	77½	3.32 Fidelity	57½			
265	75	265	6.01 Fint Pubs	75			
183	13½	183	3.04 First Intex	13½			
92½	32½	92½	24.30 Fitness First	32½			
255	188	255	6.53 Flomares	188		1.3	28.3
343	233	343	8.80 Floral St	233		0.4	13.3
45	37½	45	7.54 FNR Hds	37½			
193	113½	193	13.00 FNR Hds	113½		2.3	13.4
41½	14	41½	139.40 Fungus Homes	14			
144½	93	144½	8.55 Fungus Homes	93		2.4	10.1
23	15	23	5.10 Galtel Trust	15			
83	57½	83	1.67 Galtel Trust Env	57½		6.3	
23	15	23	35.70 Galtel Hds	15			
109½	77½	109½	82.20 Garland WGB	77½			
113½	71½	113½	96.00 Geo Int Media	71½			
25	18	25	24.60 Gold Mine Snd	18			
13½	8	13½	5.89 Gold Mine Snd Wts	8			
12	6	12	2.98 Greenhills	6			
159	134	159	1.78 Grovenor Ltd	134		3.7	12.6
150	140	150	33.40 Guller	140			
280	169	280	31.30 HT Entertain	169			
41	37½	41	0.97 Hansom	37½			
68	53	68	7.45 Hill Pln	53		6.2	7.8
275	156	275	6.22 Hiltop	156		2.8	17.0
255	180	255	9.90 Hercules Prop	180		2.9	15.1
65	48	65	1.27 Hercules Prop	48			
80	55	80	14.70 Hison	55		2.6	
119½	111	119½	0.77 Hittington	111			
280	138	280	21.20 Hison	138		0.5	
36	6	36	2.65 ICS Wts	6			
118	77½	118	14.00 ICS Wts	77½			
134	105	134	10.20 Indt Radio	105			
88	64½	88	15.70 Indt Radio	64½			
88	63	88	15.70 Indt Radio	63			
177	160½	177	55.50 Interale Tele	160½		2.7	13.9
62½	45	62½	10.20 Interale Tele	45			
165½	108	165½	38.00 KDC Int	108			
132½	122½	132½	10.80 Jardiner Int	122½			
103	74½	103	3.04 Jasmin	74½			
320	290	320	21.30 Jennings Bus	290		2.7	21.2
74½	48½	74½	9.62 Jontex	48½			

ing to market makers. AIM dealers last week reported levels of trading not seen since its summer boom. But this is in the form of strong two-way trade, rather than in share-price jumps. The FT-SE AIM index was unchanged at 1,028.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charities: Victoria's Gilt.
Scheme to assist the provision of the Scheme of 4th February 1996.
Reference: PC-222412/1994-1995.
The Charity Commission have made a Scheme for the Victoria's Gilt. A copy of the Scheme can be seen for free at the offices of Wood, Gorton & Co., 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. A copy of the Scheme can also be obtained by sending a request to the Charity Commission, Victoria's Gilt, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. A copy of the Scheme can also be obtained by sending a request to the Charity Commission, Victoria's Gilt, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

LEGAL NOTICES

POLICE LTD
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: On 4 October 1996 the above company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Mr. J. P. H. Smith, of P O Box 55, 1, St. James Street, London W1A 1AA, was appointed Liquidator by the Members.
The Liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Companies Act 1985 that on 12 January 1997 he intends to convene a final meeting of the company to be held on 12 January 1997 at 12.00 noon at the offices of the Liquidator, 1, St. James Street, London W1A 1AA. The final meeting of the company will be held at 12.00 noon on 12 January 1997. The Liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Companies Act 1985 that on 12 January 1997 he intends to convene a final meeting of the company to be held on 12 January 1997 at 12.00 noon at the offices of the Liquidator, 1, St. James Street, London W1A 1AA. The final meeting of the company will be held at 12.00 noon on 12 January 1997.

LEGAL NOTICES

SUE (HASTINGS) LIMITED
IN ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The above company was placed into Administration on 12 January 1996. A copy of the Scheme can be seen for free at the offices of Wood, Gorton & Co., 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. A copy of the Scheme can also be obtained by sending a request to the Charity Commission, Victoria's Gilt, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. A copy of the Scheme can also be obtained by sending a request to the Charity Commission, Victoria's Gilt, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

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NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR
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TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia	2.20	Malta	0.621
Austria	1.88	Netherlands	2.736
Belgium	2.27	New Zealand	2.49
Canada	2.332	Norway	11.07
Denmark	10.20	Portugal	264.50
Finland	6.13	Spain	217.50
France	1.88	Switzerland	10.25
Germany	2.69	Sweden	2.25
Greece	11.1	Switzerland	10.25
India	13.50	Switzerland	10.2

BaE lifted by second contract for Hawks

By Oliver August and Tom Rhodes

BRITISH AEROSPACE yesterday received its second Hawk contract in a week after losing out in the race for the £100 billion project to build an American jet.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, signed a £500 million British arms deal, as part of which BaE will supply Hawk training aircraft to the Gulf state of Qatar.

The agreement is a huge boost for the company and its main Hawk construction plants at Wharton, Lancashire and Brough, Humberside after Australia's announcement last Monday of a £1 billion Hawk purchase.

Qatar will also buy Piranha armoured personnel carriers from GKN, Telford, fast patrol vessels from Vosper Thornycroft of Southampton and Starburst shoulder-launched air defence missile systems from Shorts of Belfast.

The deal is a blow to

French industry, which hoped to expand its defence sales in the Gulf region. It is also an important fillip for BaE after the Pentagon unexpectedly rejected its bid for the super-sonic joint strike fighter programme in a consortium with McDonnell Douglas and Northrop Grumman.

Defence chiefs in Washington decided that the McDonnell Douglas proposal, developed by the British company, should be shelved in favour of a duel between the two other firms, Boeing and Lockheed Martin. "The best value to the government was reflected in these two proposals," said Lieutenant General George Muellner, former programme manager for the fighter.

The Joint Strike Fighter jets, which also will be bought by the Royal Air Force, are to be the most technologically demanding aircraft ever, serving the particular needs of their different transatlantic masters.

The aircraft must be invisible to radar and able to land conventionally at airfields or on board carriers. At the same time, however, the Marine Corps insisted that its version should be capable of rising almost vertically, and hovering before accelerating to faster than the speed of sound.

The vertical lift requirement was the most challenging element of the design and the McDonnell Douglas team struggled for two years to find a solution. Critics said the outcome was deficient because, unlike the other bidders' proposals, its Marine version had two separate engine types, both requiring a costly maintenance crew and spare parts.

The purchase of the fighter is to be so enormous and the corporate stakes were considered so high that the Pentagon brought forward its announcement by two days to avoid leaks. And the Clinton Administration delayed the choice until after the presidential election to avoid upsetting voters at the losing companies.



World first: Ceylon Tea Gardens plans to be the first tea exporter to pack the herb at source and avoid the commission at Colombo tea exchange

Ladbroke looks to Las Vegas

By Jason Nisse

LADBROKE, the hotels and gaming company, plans to open a casino in Las Vegas, probably in a joint venture with Hilton Hotels Corporation, its new US partner.

The two are believed to be planning to buy into a \$600 million project to build a 300-room hotel called Paris, incorporating a casino. It is based on a design looking like the Eiffel Tower.

Ladbroke would not confirm this investment but said that, two weeks ago, it had won a gaming licence in Nevada, which is the main US state for gambling, boasting Las Vegas and Reno.

A spokesman said the company would look at investments in Nevada, probably in conjunction with Hilton Hotels, though the agreement with the US company allowed Ladbroke to work with other parties.

Hilton Hotels recently paid \$1 billion for Bally Entertainment Corporation, which came up with the idea of the Paris project.

Tea group brews colonial blend

By Fraser Nelson

SRI LANKA may have changed its name from Ceylon when it became independent in 1948, but the Sri Lankan Government is still hanging on to the old Colonial tradition. Ceylon Tea Gardens, a Sri Lankan tea exporter backed by the Government, is to float on the Ofex market in a bid to raise £1.2 million.

Set up last year, the company plans to be the first

worldwide tea exporter to pack the herb at source. This cuts out commission paid using the established system, where all tea goes through the Colombo tea exchange.

The company comes to the market two years after being founded by Brian Shaddick, a Welshman now living in Australia, who took an interest in tea while on business in Sri Lanka. He enlisted the help of

Sydney Jayasinghe, a local tea exporter, and Rohini Nanayakkara, a local economist, and won a \$3.4 million subsidy from the Sri Lankan government to set up the factories.

It plans to spend \$5 million building six factories over the next three years to vacuum pack the tea into bags for export. It expects its largest markets to be Russia and Japan. Ceylon Tea Gardens is float-

ing with its imperial title, rather than using Sri Lanka, because both it and the Government agreed that Ceylon was a stronger brand name for the drink. The company is expected to be capitalised at £5 million when it joins Ofex this year and forecasts sales of £790,000 in its first year, growing to £20.2 million by its fifth. It eventually plans to seek a full listing.

CalEnergy ignores 'dirty tricks' details

By Janet Bush

CALENERGY, the consortium bidding £650 million for Northern Electric, was yesterday undeterred by revelations about the extensive legal entanglements of Peter Kiewit Sons, one of its backers.

Responding to reports detailing a history of corruption and contract-rigging court cases involving the American construction company in the US, a spokesman for CalEnergy said: "We view these actions as vexatious and pet-

ty." He suggested that a dirty tricks campaign was being orchestrated against the CalEnergy bid and expressed the hope that Britain's Office of Electricity Regulation (Ofreg), would see through the litany of American litigation and look at the substance of the offer on the table.

Offer is considering whether to refer the CalEnergy bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. A decision may come as early as this week.

Extend tax relief, say small firms

By Fraser Nelson

CISCO, the small companies lobby group, is pressing the Chancellor to ease tax burdens for smaller quoted companies by allowing them relief given to unlisted companies.

The group is calling for abolition of stamp duty on small companies' shares, for tax relief on new money they raise on the market, and for a cut in capital gains tax to 20 per cent.

Michael Wareing, of Cisco, said that they were aimed at creating a level playing field

for small companies. He said: "The tax line now drawn between quoted and unquoted companies should be redrawn along criteria of size."

Cisco's proposals for the November 26 Budget also include a suggestion that reinvestment relief be available for shares in all small quoted companies, not just those on the Alternative Investment Market. This would, Cisco says, attract more private investors for small companies.

US defeat for BAT subsidiary

A Florida judge has refused a request by Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp, a subsidiary of BAT Industries, to overturn a precedent-setting jury award of \$750,000 to a smoker with lung cancer.

However, the decision means that Brown & Williamson can now appeal to a higher court against the jury award, made on August 9.

CinVen £300m

CinVen, a leading UK venture capital company, closed its first fund on Friday with commitments of £300 million. CinVen said that funding has come from North America, continental Europe and the Middle East. The fund is expected to focus on buyouts valued at over £10 million.

Proton invests

Proton, the Malaysian car maker, is investing £7 million in engineering facilities at the plant, at Hethel, Norfolk, of Group Lotus, the British sports car company. Proton last month said that it and its chairman had bought 80 per cent of Lotus.

Key to success

A £1.8 million scheme to improve small manufacturers' performance is to be unveiled by the Government today. It will give 3,000 firms in the West Midlands access to experts from leading companies, including Rover.

Debts paid

Trade Indemnity Collections expanded its international debt collection business by 300 per cent in terms of value in the year to September. In the past 12 months, it has collected more than £3 million in overdue accounts for clients.

Oxford target

Oxford BioMedica, the gene therapy company, now intends to raise a maximum of £11 million before expenses from its Alternative Investment Market float, up from the £5 million originally envisaged.

Fountain aim

Fountain Forestry, manager of forests in Scotland and the US, is floating on the Alternative Investment Market valued at £9 million. Shares are to be placed with institutional investors to raise £4.5 million.

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar
1.6661 (+0.0216)
German mark
2.5130 (+0.0349)
Exchange index
92.0 (+1.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share
2775.8 (+11.9)
FTSE 100
3958.2 (+47.4)
New York Dow Jones
6348.03 (+128.20)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
1929.73 (+271.31)

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Gambling on a modern Marvel

A billionaire wants to stake \$350m on the survival of a legendary comic, says Ian Brodie

These are tough times for Spider-Man, The Incredible Hulk, Captain America, the Fantastic Four, The Mighty Thor, and all the other improbable characters whose adventures flourish in the pages of Marvel comic.

Their impregnable shields, their fists of steel, their ability to fly through time and space could all be brought down to Earth by the one enemy that their incontestable powers cannot defeat: bankruptcy.

In an attempt to avert this calamity, Ronald Perleman, the billionaire financier, has offered to invest an eye-popping \$350 million in Marvel Entertainment Group. It was a surprise to realise that so much money could be staked on make-believe heroes.

Mr Perleman's effort to ensure Marvel's survival provoked an angry reaction on Wall Street. Indeed, some analysts thought that it was about as audacious as the stunts pulled off by Spider-Man and company.

Mr Perleman, already Marvel's controlling shareholder with 80 per cent of the stock, proposed purchasing 410 million new shares with cash or with stock in a related company, Toy Biz Inc. in which Mr Perleman is acquiring 67 per cent. The offer was valued at only 85 cents a share, far below the trading price, and a blow to investors holding the remaining 20 per cent of Marvel stock, and to bondholders.

The immediate impact was a 40 per cent plunge in Marvel's shares to \$2.75, compared to the year's best of \$3.4 and a price three years ago of \$3.4.

In a delaying tactic, Marvel formed a committee of independent directors to study the proposal. That may lead to counter-proposals, but the self-made Mr Perleman, whose wealth is estimated at between \$4 billion and \$6 billion, would seem assured of the final say if liquidation is to be avoided. He is also chairman of Revlon Group, where he led a takeover, and he is remembered in Britain for selling Technicolor to Carlton Communications for \$780 million.

His Marvel proposal is the first time that he has put up equity in one of his own companies under such financial pressure. Marvel, with debts of around \$1 billion, is in violation of bank covenants and is negotiating with bankers for restructuring. The company has projected a loss for this year of between \$2 and \$7

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF MARVEL



Clockwise: Spider-Man, Captain America, The Incredible Hulk and The Mighty Thor

cents a share. If one moment marked the downturn for comics, it was the "death" four years ago of Superman, the leading star of Marvel's rival, DC Comics, a division of Time-Warner. The saga began with the invasion of Earth by Doomsday and his henchmen. It culminated six weeks later with the Death Issue.

Superman's demise was trumpeted by mainstream media around the world, setting off an unprecedented sales frenzy within the comics industry. The initial print run of 3 million copies sold out in a day. DC Comics, reacting even quicker than a speeding bullet, ordered second and third printings.

Comics were at the peak of a boom that had started three years earlier. Every publisher benefited, including Marvel. Investors were misled into thinking that comics were glamour

stocks with strong potential. Then the bubble burst. Superman soon overcame his ultimate sacrifice and somehow returned from the grave. Many who had thought that the Death Issue would become a collector's item felt tricked by a marketing gimmick.

A shop assistant at Big Planet Comics, situated in suburban Washington, explained: "They brought Superman back too quickly. Real collectors had always known he would return, but newcomers who thought that their comics would go up in value were bitterly disappointed. It was a short-term gain for the publisher at the expense of longer-term readers."

John Jackson Miller, associate editor of the weekly *Comics Buyer's Guide*, said that would-be collectors, mainly adolescents, left the market

when they realised it was flooded with titles and that their comics would never pay for their college education. The vanished buyers are now talked of scornfully as speculators.

Half of the 9,000 comics shops in the US have gone out of business. Annual sales of nearly \$1 billion have been cut in half. The hard core of American collectors shrank to no more than half a million, though there are still untold legions overseas.

Theirs is a singular obsession. They meet at conventions where leading comic artists, known as pencillers, need bodyguards to protect them from adoring fans. They dream of exploring grumpy's attic and finding a pristine copy of the first *Superman*, issued in 1938 and now worth \$125,000, or a *Batman* No. 1 from 1939, valued at \$115,000. Fewer

than 75 copies of either are known to exist and no more than half a dozen are in mint condition. The other week a No. 1 *Superman* sold for \$10,500, but it had been chewed by a mouse.

Comics publishers have been frantically trying to recapture the enthusiasm generated by Superman's temporary departure. There was the marriage of Lois Lane to Clark Kent, Superman's alter ego, after a courtship that had lasted for 58 years. *Captain America* was relaunched to take on Master Man, who may be Hitler brought back to life by a mysterious serum.

DC Comics and Marvel even combined resources to publish a "cross-over" series in which the Marvel gang, led by Spider-Man, encounters the DC crowd, under the command of Batman. After initial distrust and fistfights, the teams join forces to combat their common enemies, among them the reptilian evil known as Eddie Venom.

None of this marketing has brought back the crowds. Sales of comics remain soft. So do trading cards, which have not fully recovered from strikes in baseball and other professional sports. Together they account for one third of Marvel's sales and the bulk of the losses. Marvel's other businesses — stickers, toys, licensing and promotion — are generally on the right track, according to Jill Krutick, who analyses the company for Smith Barney, the Wall Street broker. International operations show a profit.

Mr Perleman recognises that Marvel's strength lies in copyright property. He wants to capitalise on its stable of about 3,000 characters by unleashing them on video games, CD-Roms, unlimited cable and satellite television, and the Internet, all of which are a threat to printed-paper comics.

Licensing of Spider-Man and some others already extends to video games, clothing and food products. Fox Television, owned by News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*, has a deal to carry at least two Marvel cartoons and to fund the development of future sources.

Looking for future sources of growth, Marvel will produce more of its interactive CD-Roms in-house. There are plans to develop Marvel Mania theme restaurants in conjunction with Planet Hollywood. Revenues from Toy Biz have increased 50 per cent, to \$46 million, with strong sales of Marvel action figures to boys and a line of twin dolls for girls.

For all that, there is still a sense that the company is not yet making the most of the fame and franchise value of its characters. Unlike Superman and Batman, both owned by DC Comics, no Marvel superhero has received the ultimate accolade of being turned by Hollywood into a worldwide box-office hit.

The Garnett of Venice

The Monday Play: *The Merchant of Venice*. Radio 4, 7.45pm.

Warren Mitchell plays a trick on us in Peter Kavanagh's hugely enjoyable production of *The Merchant*. His Shylock begins as a merry old soul, chuckling disarmingly over his cash-for-flesh pact with Martin Jarvis's Antonio. Then, as the plot thickens, the playful pussy cat sprouts dangerous claws and strong opinions and his voice changes from microphone-hugging maddeningly to the high-pitched desperation of a Speaker's Corner fanatic. All Garnett of the Rialto. Kavanagh's adaptation amounts to little more than a line dropped here, a word added there. Juliet Aubrey's Portia, Samuel West's Bassanio (his ordeal by basket is one of the finest moments in the play) and Ron Cook's Gratiano — all are first-class.

Between the Ears: *The Voluptuous Tango*. Radio 3, 10.30pm.

Dominic Muldowney's radio opera, with libretto by David Zane Maikowitz, is an unclassifiable, international radio event. It is an amalgam of Argentine tango rhythms, the American dancer Isadora Duncan (Maria Friedman), the Italian Fascist futurist F.T. Marinetti (Alan Beck), who prepares a leaning tower of veal for a vegetarian, and the Paris studio in which a mutual post-prandial seduction is planned and executed. "The siren song in my ovaries beckons to him like Ulysses," says Isadora about her "Italian sailor". You don't get that sort of talk in *Il Parnaso*. Ned Chaillet, who is American, directs like a man inspired. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa (Arson) includes at 12.30pm-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00p Mickey Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, includes 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session, with Jo Whiley and Steve Lamacq 8.00p Concorde. The best of Sopa Luna 10.00 Mark Radcliffe, live from Manchester 12.00 Claire Sturgess 4.00am Chris Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Martin Kelner 7.30p Wake Up to Wogan 9.30p Ken Bruce 11.30p Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00p Ed Stewart 5.05p Helen Sharman 7.00p Fuzert Gregg 7.30p Malcolm Lockwood with Dave Sand 8.30p Bob Sand Special 9.00p Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00p Melys on Monday, Chantreae Annie Ross 10.30p Newsbeat 12.00pm Steve Macken 3.00p Alan Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at 5.45p Wake Up to money 6.00p The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55p, 7.55p racing preview 8.55p The Magazine, with Chris MacCl, incl at 10.35p News from Europe 12.00p Midday with Mel, incl at 12.35pm Moneycheck 2.05p Ruscos on Five 4.00p Nationwide, incl at 5.45p Entertainment News 7.00p News Extra, incl at 7.20p Sports Bulletin 7.35p Sportschat 8.05p The Monday Match, Sheffield Wednesday vs Nottingham Forest 10.05p News Talk 11.00p Night Extra 12.05pm The Other Side of Midnight 2.05p Up All Night, with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Early Breakfast 7.00p Paul Ross 9.00p Scott Chisholm 12.00p Anna Pearson 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00p Drivehome, with Peter Dinkley 7.00p Mo'z Day's Sportsline 10.00p James White 1.00pm Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00 On Air, with Andrew McGregor, includes Strauss (Three Hymns, Op 71); Schubert (Suite Scènes Historiques 11) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday, includes London symphonies and music by Busoni, including Haydn (Symphony No 55 in D); Busoni (Sonatina No 6 in B-flat's Canon) 10.00 Musical Encounters, includes Scarlatti (Sonata in C, K550); Artist of the Week: Andreas Staker, harpichord, Schubert (String Quartet in E flat, D357) 12.00 Composers of the Week: Bartok and Kodaly, Paul Hindemith investigates how Bela Bartok and Zoltan Kodaly raised Hungarian music from its "musical corpse" 1.00pm News: BBC Lunchtime Concert, Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Boris Pergamenschikov, cello, Boris Frot, piano, Beethoven (Variations on Bel Manne, Die Zaubertöne); Taliana Komarova (Majestich); Brahms (Cello Sonata in E minor, Op 38) 2.00 The BBC Orchestras, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, conductor Tadeusz Olska, John Lill, piano, Tchaikovsky (The Voyevoda); Prokofiev (Piano Concerto No 1); Rachmaninov (Symphony No 2 in E minor) 3.45 Voices (p) 4.30p The Beatles Saxophone, John Sumner examines the work of Ernie Coores, Leo Parker, Charlie Ventura and Harry Carney

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10p Farring Today 6.25p Prayer for the Day 6.30p Today 6.40p No Man is an Island (1/4) 6.55p Weather 9.00 News 9.05p Start the Week, with Melvin Bragg, Rosie Boycott, Robert Fox, Peter Bernstein, Jay Winter and Madeleine Bunting 10.00 News: The Seven Deadly Viruses (FM); Industry, with Owen Dudley Edwards (97) 10.10p Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30p Women's Hour, with Jenni Murray 11.30p Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444, with Vincent Duggles 12.00 News: You and Yours, with Mark Whitaker 12.25pm The Heritage Quiz, with Sue MacGregor, Denise Coffey, Christopher Collins, Philip Gregory and Michael Schmidt 12.55p Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: The Saint Closes the Cases, by Leslie Charteris, with Paul Rhy, Kim Thomson and Charles Simson (2/3) (p) 3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with David Jessel 4.00 News 4.05p Kaleidoscope, Lynne Walker sees the BNO's staging of *The Soldiers* and reviews the latest Brito epic on television — *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, starring Tara Fitzgerald 4.45p Short Story: Nightmares in the Dream Factory, by Carol Hedges, Read by Kerry Shale 5.00p PM, with Chris Lowe and Charlie Lee-Potter 5.50p

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT News on the hour 5.30am Europe Today 6.30p Europe Today 6.30p On the Shelf 7.20p The Vintage Chart Show 8.10p Words of Faith 8.15p Talking Sport 8.10p Words of Faith 8.15p Anything Goes 8.45p Sports Roundup 10.30p English 10.45p Off the Shelf 11.30p Omnibus 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15p Britain Today 12.30p Andy Kershaw 2.05p Outlook 2.30p John Peel 3.05p Sports Roundup 3.15p The Learning World 3.30p Omnibus 4.15p World Today 4.30p BBC English 4.45p Britain Today 4.50p World Today 5.05p On the Shelf 5.20p Outlook 6.30p Quilts... Unquilted 7.01p Outlook 7.25p Words of Faith 7.30p Multitrack 8.05p World Business Report 8.10p Words of Faith 8.30p Your View, Your Government 8.45p Founders of their faith 10.30p World Today 10.45p Sports Roundup 11.10p Tale Five 11.15p Record News 11.30p Multitrack 12.30pm Global Concerns 12.45p Britain Today 1.30p Outlook 1.55p Words of Faith 2.30p Omnibus 3.15p Multitrack 3.30p Multitrack Feature 4.30p Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Giffitts 6.00p Mike Read 9.00p Henry Kelly 12.00p Susanah Chernack 2.05p Ruscos on Five 4.00p Nationwide, incl at 5.45p Entertainment News 7.00p News Extra, incl at 7.20p Sports Bulletin 7.35p Sportschat 8.05p The Monday Match, Sheffield Wednesday vs Nottingham Forest 10.05p News Talk 11.00p Night Extra 12.05pm The Other Side of Midnight 2.05p Up All Night, with Rhod Sharp

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Paul 'n' Jo's Breakfast Experience 10.00p Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00p Nicky Home 7.00p Paul Coyte (FM) 8.00p Barks (FM) 9.00p Mark Forrest 2.00pm Randal Lee Ross

CENTRAL AFRICA URGENT APPEAL FOR AID

More than a million people are fleeing the fighting in Zaire. Without urgent help, thousands of innocent victims could die.

Clean water, food, medical supplies and shelter are desperately needed. The Red Cross is organising emergency supplies of aid right now, so your help is vital.

Red Cross workers are well placed to provide this aid as soon as it arrives. Please phone now to give as much as you can. Just £25 could feed 35 refugees for one week.

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Capital move for Mandarin?

WORD has it that Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group is moving back to London to manage the Hyde Park Hotel. Since Trafalgar House last October, sold the Ritz Hotel, which was managed by the Mandarin, the Hong Kong hotelier has been dying to get back into the capital. I hear Granada has invited Mandarin in at the Hyde Park Hotel, which is in its newly acquired collection of former Forte hotels. Meanwhile, Elliott Bernerd, chairman of Chelsea field property company, is in discussions with Granada about the possible purchase of hotels, rumoured to be the Westbury in Conduit Street and its sister in New York.

In the genes

NEWS that Sir Chips Keswick is to take the chair of Hambros Bank next year will have upset some traditionalists. Throughout its long history, the bank has always been led by a Hambro. However, purists can take heart in the knowledge that Sir Chips and Lord Hambro, the outgoing chairman, are of the same gene pool. They are fifth cousins in their descent from Anne Campbell, Countess of Bute, who died in 1736. Lord Hambro traces his line through his father, Sir Charles Hambro, to Lady Bute's son, the third earl, who was George III's Prime Minister. Sir Chips owes his important link to his mother, the former Mary Lindley.

THE latest wheeze at Warburgs is trading tables at London's smartest watering holes. *Entrepreneurship* at the bank has reached new levels as the City whizzkids make multiple bookings and bargain for the most sought after tables at London's top restaurants. Hot favourite is the recently opened Oxo Tower, a popular place for entertaining clients: there's always the view to talk about.

Question time

YOUNG City Conservatives put Neil Hamilton through the wringer at a parliamentary dinner last week. Blue-blooded bucks from Rothschild, Warburgs, BZW, Flemings, James Capel, and Credit Suisse, paid £50 each for the dinner at the Cafe Royal

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

hosted by Roland Fisher, a trustee accountant at Deloitte, Ian Lang, Michael Jopling, William Waldegrave, and Roger Freeman, were among the honorary guests, who were required to move tables at the end of every course, just as things were hotting up.

Mellow mood

GORDON CAMPBELL is feeling a bit more comfortable about delivering his first interim report on Wednesday as chief executive of Courtaulds. Last week he attended the annual dinner of the wood pulp industry. Held in London, the knees-up gives insiders from Finland to Brazil a pointer to price direction. Last year's soaring wood pulp prices gave Courtaulds's viscose business a thrashing. "When I left the dinner, I told my people to buy all the wood pulp they could get their hands on," recalls Campbell. This year, however, the mood over coffee and cigars was mellow. Apparently, prices have plateaued.

On the line

THERE'S not much work going on this week at Beeson Gregory. Andrew Beeson, chief executive of the securities firm, is taking on competitors from the US and Australia in the Balthurst Cup real tennis competition. Meanwhile, Julia Henderson, a director, is heading off to warmer climes to compete in the finals of *The Times* Mees Pierson Corporate golf Challenge in La Manga. Guy Bell, head of research, appears to have pulled the long straw; he has volunteered to take part in the BT Global Challenge yacht race, which is about to leave Rio.

MORAG PRESTON

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 82.4-84.0. LW 198. MW 198 (12.45-5.55pm). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, LW 105.8. MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McLennan.

Dancing in the dark with a Brontë sister

No giggling, no mock-Vivaldi and, until Beattie Edney arrived as the scarlet Annabella midway through episode two, scarcely a bosom in sight. The Tenant of Wildfell Hall (BBC1) was definitely not period drama as we know it.

Whether it was the answer to BBC1's recent Sunday night woes, I am not sure. Rather curiously, it was an episode either side of the News last night, and the concluding instalment next weekend goes out against ITV's Emma, which we can be certain will be bosoms, breeches, the full Austen disaster. For those without video, it will be a difficult choice.

But let us rise above the Machiavellian manoeuvrings of the channel schedulers and consider Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*. Why a Girl Should Always Listen to her Auntie, on its considerable merits. From the outset, Mike Barker, the director,

aggressively signalled his ambition that this period drama was going to be different.

Richard G. Mitchell's modern music-jarred, the swooping, spinning camera-work jarred, and Tara Fitzgerald as the abrasive Helen Graham, a woman suffering from a nasty case of period flashback... yes, she jarred, too. No sooner had she picked up the keys for Wildfell Hall than she was arguing with her neighbours. If Barker's intention was to make us sit up and pay attention, he had succeeded.

Sumptuous was not the adjective to describe this production. From Mrs Graham's Puritan black to moorland landscapes bleached of colour, the style was stark, ascetic and undeniably powerful. Just like Mrs Graham. Sans make-up, sans flattery soft-focus, Fitzgerald gradually won our attention, though how this prickly figure cast such a spell over Gilbert

Markham (Toby Stephens) was just one of several mysteries that went unexplained in episode one. The sooner he got to the stilt on Long Hill and had the whole plot explained to him, the better.

In the end, and after Peter Sissons' enlightenment came not by but by notebook. With Mrs Graham's diary now taking the role of narrator, we were back on the more familiar territory of country houses, dancing and rattling coaches. It was here, driven by the desire to be different, that Barker possibly went too far. The camera that had spun to such interesting effect in episode one now circled in giddy-making cliché. As for the darkness that had loomed so menacingly during part one, it finally fell... with a serious clunk.

Now authentic darkness is a big thing among fashionable directors. If the early 19th century was

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

lit by candles, then candles lit jolly well is. The problem is that if television worked on candles, they'd never have bothered to invent electricity. It's not a case of the same picture but darker, but a much, much worse picture with lots of black that acts as a mirror. One minute Huntingdon (a wonderfully horrible Rupert Graves) is being introduced to his son, the next you're rushing round the living

room turning off lights and drawing curtains. Save it for the cinema.

Not having read the book, I'm guessing that the kissing was interpolation and likely to cause an outcry at the Brontë Appreciation Society. As for the navel-nuzzling, I'll take a wild stab and say that's made up too. Mind you, if it isn't, can anybody lead me a copy?

Later on, I arrived at the South Bank Show (ITV) with a heavy heart. Generally, I do not like Jim McGovern's work. I can admire the production values of *Cracker* but cannot stomach its content. But millions of you like it, so I reluctantly turned to Susan Shaw's profile in search of enlightenment. Amazingly, I think I found it.

McGovern revealed that he is a man driven by anger. Where once he raged against a stammer that stopped him talking until the age of eight, now he draws on the same

anger to write: "If I find a good story with a good theme, preferably one that makes me angry, then I have to write it." Anger, he told Melvyn Bragg, provided the creative energy, the drive.

What has made McGovern angrier in recent years is the Hillsborough disaster, and a large part of Shaw's absorbing film was dedicated to his forthcoming factual drama on the subject. But *Cracker*, his best known and most commercial creation, inevitably got a good look-in and it was here that we agreed (well I did, anyway) to differ. Like Dennis Potter, McGovern is a television enthusiast—he knows how it works and takes writing for it immensely seriously. It was impossible not to warm to him as he railed against writers who simply took the money and ran: "You're duty bound to make it more interesting than that." Hear, hear.

But, just like Potter on occasion, I believe — and Shaw's film confirmed — that he fails to recognise that the powerful and complex images he works so hard to create can have a very different impact on an audience accustomed to the superficial. He sees an exploration of racism, homophobia and sexual violence. I see a skinned knifing an Asian shopkeeper, a black man raping white women and a blind girl being doused in petrol. As I say, we disagree.

But no disagreement, surely about last night's *Horizon*: BSE — *The Invisible Enemy* (BBC2), the concluding part of which is tonight and not to be missed. The clarity of thought in Bettina Lerner's history of this dread disease and her ability to make seriously sophisticated biological concepts understandable was hugely impressive. As was, it must be said, her ability to scare the pants off us. Anyone for fish?

- BBC1**
- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (41302)
 - 7.00am BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (Cee-fax) (7573)
 - 7.30am BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (Cee-fax) (419147)
 - 9.20am SKY CHALLENGE (1349554) 9.45 KILROY (s) (59418) 10.00am COOK, WONT COOK (s) (59418) 11.00am NEWS (Cee-fax) and weather (268474) 11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (s) (420276) 11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (s) (562012)
 - 12.00am NEWS (Cee-fax) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (494574)
 - 12.05pm QUINCY: The Hero Syndrome (268258)
 - 12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (51919234)
 - 1.00 NEWS (Cee-fax) (75760)
 - 1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (14204470)
 - 1.40 NEIGHBOURS (Cee-fax) (s) (24115470) 2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (3073)
 - 2.30 WHO'D DO THE PUDDING? (s) (654) 3.00 INCOGNITO (s) (9470)
 - 3.30 THE BUSY WORLD OF RICHARD SCARRY (562060) 3.55 BOOGIE AND BADGER (5552741) 4.10 ACE VENTURA: Pet Detective (5619418) 4.35 RECORD BREAKERS (1850215)
 - 5.00 NEWSROUND (530925)
 - 5.10 BLUE PETER (Cee-fax) (247925)
 - 5.35 NEIGHBOURS (s) (252128)
 - 6.00 NEWS (Cee-fax) and weather (383)
 - 6.30 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES (383)
 - 7.00 TELLY ADDICTS Noel Edmonds hosts the light-hearted quiz show for television fans (Cee-fax) (1075)
 - 7.30 TOMORROW'S WORLD including a visit to the police force's new video firing range, and a virtual-reality Japanese pop star (Cee-fax) (147)
 - 8.00 EASTENDERS Problems in the Vic prevent Peggy from keeping her appointment. Felt heads off on holiday and Lorna is shocked when she discovers the truth (Cee-fax) (s) (749)
 - 9.00am VETS' SCHOOL: First episode (Cee-fax) (s) (8234)
 - 9.30am NINE O'CLOCK NEWS (Cee-fax) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (1924)
 - 9.30 PANORAMA Martin Bashir reports on the biggest cause of heart disease among children (Cee-fax) (594383)
 - 10.10 BILLY CONNOLLY'S WORLD TOUR OF AUSTRALIA reaches Melbourne, where he visits the jail where the infamous Ned Kelly was executed, and the William Ricketts Sanctuary (Cee-fax) (s) (788995)
 - 10.50 COMMON AS MUCK The day of judgment approaches and the management may be forced to take radical action (s) (Cee-fax) (s) (845788) WALES: The State 11.30 Film 95 12.00 Common as Muck 12.55am Smillie's People 1.40 News headlines
 - 11.45 Film 95 WITH BARRY NORMAN Latest film releases include Robert Altman's Kansas City with Harry Belafonte and American Buffalo with Dustin Hoffman. Plus a report from the set of *Crash* (Cee-fax) (s) (845788)
 - 12.15am SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (s) (3412971) 1.00 Weather (7747258)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode. The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video to watch a programme at a particular time. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ is the "V" and Video PlusCode is the "P" of the Video PlusCode system.

- BBC2**
- 6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: What's All This Fuss About? (Cee-fax) (5882944) 6.50 Artists in Logic — Computers in Wood (1012996) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Cee-fax) and weather (7573) 7.30am Parts of Paradise (Cee-fax) (5882993) 7.55 Blue Peter (s) (Cee-fax) (7438957) 8.20 King Greening (s) (5883373) 8.25 Tales of Aesop (s) (5731383) 8.35 Lasse (s) (5749876) 9.00am Daytime on Two: TV8 (58876) 9.30am Cosmo and Dibs in Purjib (5884477) 9.40 Megamaths (5884079) 10.00 Playdays (53298) 10.30am Hotch Potch House (5884741) 10.50 Look and Read (4286505) 11.10am Zig Zag (5292929) 11.30am Ghostwriter (5079) 12.00am GNOV: The Great New Visionary Quest (50012) 12.30pm Working Lunch (588383) 1.00 History File (s) (58948091) 1.20 Spanish Golpo (s) (4659128) 1.25am Landmarks: Portrait of Britain (Cee-fax) (5829488) 1.45 Storyline (14221147) 2.00am King Greening (s) (5883373) 2.05 Tales of Aesop (s) (5731383) 2.10 THE CHAMPIONS (s) (5848234) 3.00 NEWS and weather (408499) 3.05 THE NATURAL WORLD (s) (Cee-fax) (s) (558654) 3.55 NEWS and weather (5788147) 4.00 TODAY'S DAY (876) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (760) 5.00am East (5857) 5.30am Goleg, Goleg, Goleg (5857) 6.00am UFO (541857) 6.50am AS SEEN ON TV (s) (442079) 7.00am 1914-18: Stalemate Darned Judi Dench narrates the series on the First World War (Cee-fax) (588147) 7.50am A WEEK TO REMEMBER (s) (42302) 8.00am HORIZON: Part 2 — The Human Experiment Documentary film following the work of the C.D. Surveillance Unit (Cee-fax) (s) (26801) 9.00am MURDER MOST HORRID (s) (Cee-fax) (5859)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

- 6.00am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 6.25am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 6.50am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 7.15am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 7.30am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 7.55am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 8.20am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 8.45am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 9.10am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 9.35am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 10.00am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 10.25am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 10.50am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 11.15am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 11.40am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 12.05am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 12.30am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 1.00am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 1.25am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 1.50am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 2.15am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 2.40am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 3.05am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 3.30am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 3.55am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 4.20am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 4.45am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 5.10am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 5.35am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147) 6.00am Mickey Mouse Clubhouse (588147)

- CHOICE**
- 1914-18: Stalemate BBC2, 7.00pm After last week's scene-setting preliminaries, the First World War is finally under way. In the fashion of historical documentaries these days, we hear more from ordinary people than from generals. With film at a primitive stage, and still silent, these first-hand accounts (derived mainly from written records) are the best guide to what it was like to be there. Particularly evocative is a journalist's account of a quiet and subdued Paris bracing itself for a second German invasion in less than 50 years. The drawback of the history-on-the-ground approach is a concentration on the particular at the expense of the broad perspective. In this respect the series could make greater use of its formidable team of historians. But 1914-18 continues to offer a clear and rounded introduction to a dreadful episode.
 - Short Stories: We Love You Alan Shearer Channel 4, 8.00pm Newcastle United's £15 million striker never appears in Robert Lett's film, except as a name on the back of a shirt, but he provides the connecting theme. Lett is looking at fan worship, as practised by Newcastle supporters of all ages. In a primary school at Gateshead, youngsters write letters to Shearer and aspire to be like him. In a boys' club which once had Paul Gascoigne as a member, Lett-oids start the football field and hope to impress the talent scouts. Their biggest match of the season happens to coincide with Newcastle's, at home to Manchester United, allowing Lett to cut skillfully from one to the other. Older Newcastle fans strike a sourer note. They are delighted by Shearer's arrival on Tyne-side, but see the club's policy of admission by season ticket only as discrimination against working-class families.
 - Vets' School BBC1, 8.30pm The sad news is that this is the final instalment of a series irresistible even for those of us less than besotted with animals. The cheering news is that a sequel is already planned, which will follow the rookie vets during their first year at work. Meanwhile, the big question is whether Trude from Norway will survive. With her flashing smile and talent for getting things wrong, she has been the undoubted star. Having failed his first time round, the rest is her last chance. As you would expect, the programme is canny enough not to reveal the outcome until the last possible second. Meanwhile Alison, one of the brightest graduates, finds herself totally unprepared for a sick bumble and Mike prepares to join an ostrich farm in Botswana.
 - Secret Lives: Jeremy Thorpe Channel 4, 9.00pm Jeremy Thorpe's secret life, involving an alleged plot to kill an alleged former homosexual lover, is hardly a secret. It was revealed as long ago as 1976. Three years later a jury found Thorpe not guilty of conspiracy to murder. Despite the acquittal Thorpe's political career was destroyed. In rebroadcasting the episode, the Liberal Party to its credit has not shied from the documentary uses "secret" tapes, "exclusive" confessions and previously unseen film. While none of this adds substantially to the existing state of knowledge, the effect is to put Thorpe on trial for a second time. The fall of a dazzling politician, who led the Liberal Party to its highest vote in 50 years, was deeply sad. But whether it was on the scale of a Shakespearean tragedy, as claimed by Sir David Steel, is debatable. To add to his political eclipse Thorpe has become a victim of Parkinson's disease. Peter Waymark



Edmund and McFadden (9.30pm)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (1738321)
 - 9.25am SUPERMARKET SWEEP (1357673)
 - 9.55am REGIONAL NEWS (2166470)
 - 10.00am THE TIME... THE PLACE (53050)
 - 10.30am THIS MORNING (2417587)
 - 12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (401895)
 - 12.30am ITN LUNCHTIME NEWS (4017895)
 - 12.55am SHORTLAND STREET (402586) 1.25am CORONATION STREET (798417) 2.00am HOME AND AWAY (57140296) 2.25am CROSS WITS (57143383) 2.55am LOOK AND COOK (1318437) 3.20am NEWS (407578) 3.25am REGIONAL NEWS (406760)
 - 3.30am TOTS TV (357705) 3.40am THE SLOW NORRIS (7407012) 3.55am WOLVES, WITCHES AND GIANTS (538185) 4.05am SOOTY AND CO (5618821) 4.25am ALL NEW ANIMANIACS (582741) 4.50am HOW 2 (5805012)
 - 5.10am BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (7352505) 5.40am ITN EVENING NEWS and weather (289875) 6.00am HOME AND AWAY (s) and Travis come to a compromise (s) (Telefax) (s) (609) 6.30am REGIONAL NEWS (401)
 - 7.00am THE LIST All you need to know about movies, shows and music in the South West (5147)
 - 7.30am CORONATION STREET Curly tries to come to terms with Rachel's departure. (Telefax) (s) (215)
 - 8.00am WORLD IN ACTION Investigation into claims that children accused of petty crime in Turkey, are subjected to torture by the police (588)
 - 8.20am MIND THE BABY, MR BEAN (s) (s) (4302)



Adie Allen and Clive Owen (9.00pm)

9.00am SHARMAN Sharmar reluctantly agrees to protect a dance duo from their former manager, then finds himself falling for one of them. Meanwhile a wealthy businessman has to find his missing daughter, but the job turns into a murder hunt. Continued after News (7741)- 10.00am NEWS AT TEN and weather (58895)
- 10.30am REGIONAL NEWS (574498)
- 10.40am SHARMAN Concluding part (304166)
- 10.40am FILM: Cop (1987) James Woods is a single-minded policeman not averse to breaking the rules if it will help him to solve a case. Directed by James B. Harris (103586)
- 1.10am BUSHELL ON THE BOX (3335657) 1.40am THE CRIME HOUR (5252513) 2.45am JONES AND JURY (1018109) 3.10am FILM: Portrait of a Hitman (1977) Thriller with Jack Palance and Rod Taylor (1434128) 4.30am THE TIME PLACE (59258) 5.00am THE ENTERTAINERS (37161) 5.30am NEWS (59242)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55pm HOME AND AWAY (4092586) 1.25am CROSS WITS (39658586) 1.55am A COUNTRY PRACTICE (24129673) 2.20am BLUE HEELERS (5622296) 5.10-5.40am SHORTLAND STREET (7352505) 6.25am CENTRAL NEWS (49586) 7.00am BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (6147) 10.40am FILM: UNHOLY MATRIMONY (5824418) 12.40am NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE EXTRA (245070) 1.25am THE CRIME HOUR (7486703) 2.25am JONES AND JURY (1092161) 2.50am FILM: HOME FRONT (587722) 4.35am JOBFINDER (969513)
 - WESTCOUNTRY**
 - As HTV West except:
 - 12.55am CORONATION STREET (4092586) 1.25-1.55am CROSS WITS (39658586) 1.55am HOME AND AWAY (2980247) 2.25am TIME OF MY LIFE (57143383) 2.55am A COUNTRY PRACTICE (1318437) 5.10-5.40am HOME AND AWAY (7352505) 6.00am WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (70128) 7.00am BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (6147)
 - MERIDIAN**
 - As HTV West except:
 - 12.55am CROSS WITS (4092586) 1.25am HOME AND AWAY (39658586) 1.55am A COUNTRY PRACTICE (2980247) 2.25-3.20am BLUE HEELERS (5654895) 5.10am HOME AND AWAY (7352505) 6.00am MERIDIAN TONIGHT (609) 6.30am PERFECTLY PETS (401) 7.00am BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (6147) 10.40am IN SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES (559470) 11.40am BEYOND REASON (537128) 12.10am MERIDIAN WORKS (4873516) 5.00am FREESCREEN (37161)
 - ANGLIA**
 - As HTV West except:
 - 12.55pm CROSS WITS (4092586) 1.25am HOME AND AWAY (39658586) 1.55am JUSTICE OF THE LAND (24129673) 2.20-3.20am BLUE HEELERS (2894215) 5.10am SHORTLAND STREET (7352505) 6.30am ANGLIA NEWS (401) 7.00am BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (6147)
 - S4C**
 - Starts 6.30am TAKE FIVE (37012) 7.00am THE BIG BREAKFAST (58383) 9.00am HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER (45944) 9.30am YSGOLION (100215) 12.00am RIGHT TO REPLY (55708) 12.30pm LIFT OFF (93079) 1.00am SLOT MESTHRIN (58470) 1.30am FILM: OPERATION AMSTERDAM (1978) 3.30am THE LIVING SEA (4371) 4.00am FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (944) 4.30am THE LONELY PLANET (128) 5.00am PUMP (4925) 5.30am COUNTDOWN: THE SEARCH FOR THE SUPREME CHAMPION (708) 6.00am NEWSIDION (464031) 6.05am HENO (588708) 6.35am SION A SIAN (733673) 7.00am POKOL Y CHWM (57859) 7.25am TARO (72725) 8.00am THE O'FAHILLYS (5437) 8.30am NEWIDION (2844) 9.00am FRASIER (3654) 9.30am FRIENDS (73215) 10.00am SGORIO (8470) 11.00am THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL BIG MATCH (118437) 12.20am TRANS WORLD SPORT (5832242) 1.15am THE COVER (61258) 1.45am DIWEDD 4.00am YSGOLION (22705)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.30am TAKE FIVE (37012) 7.00am The Big Breakfast (58383) 9.00am Here's One I Made Earlier (45944) 9.30am SCHOOLS: Geography Junction 9.45am Book Box 10.00am Stage Two Science 10.15am Sign Language 10.20am Poca and People 10.40am The English Programme 11.05am Encyclopaedia Galactica 11.15am The Mix 11.30am Rai-A-Tal-Tal 11.45am Junior Technology (100215) 12.00am Right to Reply (s) (55708) 12.30pm Lift Off (s) (93079) 1.00am Seaside Street (81234) 2.00am THE LINESMAN (64075963) 2.15am FILM: Guadalcanal Diary (b/w, 1943) Second World War action drama with Preston Foster following US Marines as they make beach-heads into the Solomon Islands and drive back the Japanese (Telefax) (218470) 4.00am FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (Telefax) (944) 4.30am COUNTDOWN (Telefax) (128) 5.00am THE MONTELL WILLIAMS SHOW (5826760) (Telefax) (s) 5.45am ANTON MOSIMANN — NATURALLY (134186) 6.00am MOVIEWATCH Reviews of the latest films plus an interview with the actor Stephen Baldwin (s) (321) 6.30am HOLLYWOODS Lucy and Kurt decide to tell DC Norton the truth about Rob (Telefax) (s) (673) 7.00am CHANNEL 4 NEWS (Telefax) (841215) 7.50am THE SLOT (537470) 8.00am CHOICE SHORT STORIES: We Love You Alan Shearer The excitement caused by Alan Shearer going home to Newcastle (3437) 8.30am THE REAL HOLIDAY SHOW Includes a report from a German family coming to England for the first time, a family visiting their relatives in Barbados, and a woman who is confined to a wheelchair heading for Turkey (Telefax) (s) (2944)



Scandal: Jeremy Thorpe (9pm)

- SKY 1**
- 7.00am Love Connection (588147) 7.30am The Love Connection (588147) 8.00am The Love Connection (588147) 8.30am The Love Connection (588147) 9.00am The Love Connection (588147) 9.30am The Love Connection (588147) 10.00am The Love Connection (588147) 10.30am The Love Connection (588147) 11.00am The Love Connection (588147) 11.30am The Love Connection (588147) 12.00am The Love Connection (588147) 12.30am The Love Connection (588147) 1.00am The Love Connection (588147) 1.30am The Love Connection (588147) 2.00am The Love Connection (588147) 2.30am The Love Connection (588147) 3.00am The Love Connection (588147) 3.30am The Love Connection (588147) 4.00am The Love Connection (588147) 4.30am The Love Connection (588147) 5.00am The Love Connection (588147) 5.30am The Love Connection (588147) 6.00am The Love Connection (588147) 6.30am The Love Connection (588147) 7.00am The Love Connection (588147) 7.30am The Love Connection (588147) 8.00am The Love Connection (588147) 8.30am The Love 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